

Million high earners 'will be hit' Lamont clashes with Kinnock on 50% tax rate

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR'S tax plans moved to the centre of the political stage last night after Norman Lamont challenged Neil Kinnock to spell out precisely the income level at which he would impose his party's proposed 50 per cent top rate.

The Chancellor's intervention came as the Labour leader repeated a pledge given in his new year message that the planned new higher rate would apply to earnings "well over" £30,000 a year. Mr Kinnock refused to say, however, whether the threshold would be set at nearer £30,000 than £40,000.

Senior Labour party sources disclosed that initially an incoming Labour government would have only three income tax rates — the current levels of 25 per cent and 40 per cent and the 50 per cent top rate. Earlier plans for a starting rate below 25 per cent have been postponed and policy-makers have decided against introducing intermediate rates.

Mr Lamont, who had earlier admitted that his November forecasts of recovery were proving over-optimistic, claimed that Labour's tax

plans were marked by muddle and confusion. Two years ago, Mr Kinnock had said that the planned new top rate would "hit only a small minority of people earning more than £40,000 a year".

As senior Tory officials claimed that Labour's plans could add about £50 a week to the tax bill of people on £40,000 a year and affect an extra one million taxpayers, Mr Lamont asked Mr Kinnock why he had cut his threshold so dramatically.

Mr Kinnock said it was "mischievous and misleading" for the Tories to suggest that everyone now on the top 40 per cent rate (£28,715 for a married man excluding mortgage interest relief; £26,975 for a single person) would have to pay Labour's 50 per cent rate.

Mr Lamont's intervention, a curtain-raiser to today's London press conference at which he will claim that basic rate taxpayers will also have to pay more to fund a £35 billion Labour spending programme, marked the opening of intense pre-election campaigning by the three main parties. Chris Patten, the Tory chairman, said that the economy's sluggishness on the slowdown abroad.

Mr Kinnock said in a BBC

radio interview that the government was "in a coma" and was using British membership of the European exchange-rate mechanism as an excuse for doing nothing. He promised an "active government" that would use tax incentives for manufacturing and other measures to stimulate sustainable growth.

John Cunningham, Labour campaigns co-ordinator, rebuked the Chancellor for holding his first 1992 press conference not on the government's plans for recovery but to "repeat" Tory lies about Labour's tax proposals".

Tax policy is becoming the main point of difference between the two main parties and the Tories are convinced that, as in the 1987 campaign, it will prove Labour's Achilles' heel.

Mr Kinnock insisted that only 12 per cent of taxpayers would pay more under a Labour government through lifting of the £20,280 ceiling on national insurance contributions of 9 per cent of income. Pointing out that the total tax rise, including VAT, had risen since 1979, Mr Kinnock said that he did not want to add to the "tax burden already borne by the great majority of the British people".

The first 120-tonne consignment had already been delayed for two days at Stansted airport. The plane finally left on Saturday afternoon, after apparently gaining written entry clearance from the Russian side.

During the delay, British and EC officials in Moscow played down the difficulties in public. But in private, there was considerable frustration with the bureaucratic obstacles given the self-evident inadequacies of the Russian market.

The second Stansted delay can only reinforce British disenchantment with the Russian side.

A second plane load was held up at Stansted airport overnight. Yesterday it was unloaded and the meat returned to cold storage in King's Lynn.

British sources said that lack of ground transport in the Moscow end was another possible reason for the blockage.

Germany supplies of medicine, which have largely gone by road, appear to have gone through without a hitch while the Irish were last night loading 2,300 tonnes of beef on the Nikolai Kopernik at Lim-

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"The Russians won't accept it because of fears over mad cow disease and want some sort of certification that it is free from the disease," said Paul Hayward, a spokesman for the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

"But short of just saying that it is BSE free we don't know what else to do. This beef is EC Intervention stock and was in cold storage to keep prices up throughout the Community, not because there is something wrong with it."

"The EC is happy that it is good beef. It would seem that the Russians still don't trust the West. We are trying to sort out this technical difficulty but until we do all other shipments have been delayed indefinitely."

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Radical Tories cut jobs and costs in once far-left Brent

BRENT council in north London, once the bastion of the far-Left, has launched a drive to become a model of Conservative efficiency.

The council has just begun a total overhaul of its staff, services and internal organisation designed to it of a reputation for putting politics above people.

The controversial race unit will be abolished and hundreds of jobs are expected to go in the next twelve months as Conservatives, supported by a group of Labour defectors, push forward their "Total Quality Programme."

Council departments will be cut from ten to six and senior managers from 33 to 21. Seven of the ten directors of services who were in post last May have left and the council says this will have saved tax payers £1 million in salaries. By March the council hopes to have introduced a complete "internal market" with departments paying each other for everything from photocopying to making up wages.

IRA bomb cache uncovered in wood

By PETER DAVENPORT

A WEEKEND rabbit shooting party stalking a copse called Dead Man's Wood might have foiled an IRA plot to bomb one of Britain's largest army camps, it was disclosed yesterday. The five men uncovered a green container holding containing about 6lb of explosive, probably Semtex.

It was in a wood on the edge of Singleton village, near Blackpool, less than a mile from Weeton camp, where more than 600 men of the 1st Battalion The Queen's Lancashire Regiment are stationed with their families.

The regiment regularly serves in Northern Ireland. The defence ministry declines to discuss military movements, but it was reported locally yesterday that the regiment was due to go back to Ulster within the next few weeks.

The area of Lancashire around Preston and Blackpool has been the frequent target for IRA attacks and the latest find confirms Special Branch fears that an active service unit is still operating.

Keith Brown, an assistant chief constable, said: "It was a bomb of the type used by the IRA in their mainland campaigns. It had not been buried but was hidden and may have been there for weeks rather than days. It is the sort designed to kill, maim and cause a lot of damage."

A shooting party of five local men were walking through the wood on Saturday afternoon when one of them stumbled across the bag while looking for a rabbit he had just shot.

Weeton camp is one of the most secure army bases in the country as soldiers using it are either preparing for or returning from tours of Northern Ireland.

There was an attempt to bomb it in 1983 by the IRA bombers Patrick Magee and his friend Patrick Murray. Magee, aged 41, is serving a minimum of 35 years for the Brighton hotel bombing and Murray, aged 48, has been held in France since 1989 for the car bomb murder in Hanover of a British soldier.

The plan was rapidly abandoned when they realised they were being watched by police. However, they managed to evade capture after a chase through Preston.

Ministers are to be asked how plans of the Household Cavalry's barracks in Knightsbridge, London, were sent to Emrys Owen, a grocer in Old Colwyn, Cheshire, rather than a roofing contractor, also called Owen, at Pwllheli in Gwynedd.

Douglas Broome finds Conservatives, with a few Labour rebels, determined to force changes on a London borough famed for spending

Bob Blackman, the council's Conservative leader, says the plan is more radical than anything yet attempted by Tories in local government. It has already been condemned by Labour leader Dorman Long, who says: "They are just trying to set the lowest poll tax in London regardless of the effect it has on local people."

Mr Blackman says that Labour's reign brought the borough close to financial ruin. A dispute with the bin men left the streets piled with rubbish and Labour's last act was to set one of the highest poll taxes in London at £498.

Formidable obstacles remain. Paying the poll tax in Brent is still a minority activity. Only £24 million of the £84 million due this year has been collected and three fifths of residents are behind with pay-

ments. Brent is also owed £42 million in uncollected rates and council rents. The Conservative response has been to publish poll tax defaulters' names and to step up court action. So far 23,575 summonses have been issued and 24,000 liability orders granted by the courts. A telephone chasing service phones defaulters at home and of the 4,216 called so far 1,466 have paid up. Almost £6 million has been collected since the campaign began.

The Tories have also decided to cut the council's £8.4 million annual payment to voluntary groups in the borough after investigations found some serious abuses.

Checks since May showed that the council was paying £17,000 a year to a post office box number in Hackney. That turned out to be for what Mr Blackman calls "an agit-



Nyaga and Amalu-Johnson: Labour rebels who backed Tories

prop" theatre company with no links to Brent. The grant was re-

stopped. In another case councillors found that an ex-offenders hostel was getting £150,000 a year even though it had been shut for a year.

The money was recovered. Large charities like Mencap and Mind will be invited to sign three-year contracts for grants in return for giving services to local people. Other applications will be closely

The Tories are confident that they can see their revolution through even though their grip on power relies on three and sometimes four former Labour councillors who sit as independents.

After the May 1990 elections the council was hung with no party in control until May last year when two Labour members Nkechi Amalu-Johnson and Poline Nyaga resigned the Labour whip and formed the Democratic Labour group.

Now the Tories are supported by a new independent group comprising Mrs Nyaga and two former Labour councillors Harshad Barot and Judith Harper with Mrs Amalu-Johnson voting with them on some issues.

"To be a senior councillor in Brent you need to have the skin of a rhinoceros, the agility of a monkey and the speed of a jaguar just to survive," Mr Blackman said. "This has always been a politically very exciting borough."

Britain fights EC proposal for tougher consumer law

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN is on a collision course with Brussels over proposed consumer protection laws that would make it difficult for public bodies and firms to defend themselves against claims for personal injury or damage to property.

Ministers have made clear that they regard a draft European Commission directive on the legal liabilities of service industries as unacceptable and are campaigning to persuade their partners to water down the document.

The directive proposes reversing the burden of proof in cases where consumers sue service suppliers for negligence. Defendants would have to prove that they were not at fault to avoid paying compensation. Rail, coach, bus and ferry operators, airlines, taxi firms, hoteliers and caterers, holiday companies, social services and education departments, and safety inspectors are among a host of service industries that would be affected.

The Institute of Directors has given a warning that small traders such as garages, hairdressers and office cleaning companies, would face prohibitive insurance costs and could be forced out of business if the EC succeeds in its plans to make the directive law by the end of this year.

The Commission, which tabled the directive under the Single European Act, has already been persuaded to exempt medical services and the construction industry. This climbdown has lifted one threat of extra compensation payments, costing millions of pounds, but the government has said it is not enough.

Mr Leigh cited significant problems for a number of sectors. "I could mention transport services, postal services, veterinary services, personal social services for those in need of special care, and inspection and certification bodies. The impact on financial and other advisory services is not clear."

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Soviet chess masters find black is white

THE upheavals that have shaken the former Soviet Union are now being played out on the chessboard. The bottom has fallen out of the world of Soviet chess professionals, apart from a few at the top. Thousands of candidate masters, masters and grandmasters enjoyed sinecures in offices, factories and clubs. Their real function was to play chess.

But the new economic and political realities have swept away their purpose and their privileges.

The upheaval is not confined to the former USSR borders. Not only are many of the players turning out under the flags of their new republics, but some are being enlisted by Western countries. There is a danger that a mass exodus of former Soviet chess experts at all levels will start to monopolise the prizes in Western tournaments.

With four million registered players, the USSR had accounted for 80 per cent of the World Chess Federation's membership. In 1920 Lenin had declared chess "the gymnasium of the mind" and state bureaucrats in the sports ministry set about turning the Soviet Union into the greatest chess power the world had seen. They believed that world domination in the game would confer intellectual respectability on the fledgling state.

From 1948, when Mikhail Botvinnik won the

Raymond Keene plots the moves of the former USSR's troubled chess champions

world championship, that domination was assured. The only brief hiatus was the intrusion of the American Bobby Fischer, who took the world title from Boris Spassky in 1972. Three years later Fischer abdicated and has not played a public game of chess since.

For almost half a century, Soviet grandmasters enjoyed a privileged position. The hub of their empire was a resplendent building on Gogol Boulevard in the centre of Moscow, its walls hung with photographs of past champions and cabinets stuffed with the trophies of Olympic championships and world titles.

While the likes of Gary Kasparov and Anatoly Karpov are financially secure against any vagaries in their fortunes or hyper inflation in the former Soviet economy, the future is uncertain for such as Anton Sidorkov, aged 18, champion of the Russian province of Karelia and an aspiring master.

It is not uncommon to find some Russians hawking tins of contraband caviar or manuscripts of chess expertise in the corridors of Western tournaments.

From 1948, when

The grandmasters have dispersed to represent their republics. Of the three former Soviet grandmasters competing in the United Kingdom's premier chess competition, the Foreign and Colonial grandmaster section at Hastings, Evgeny Bareev, last year's winner, and the veteran Alexei Suetin, aged 65, winner in 1967, are playing under the Russian tricolour. Alexei Shirshov, aged 19, has pinned his colours to the crimson and white of the new Latvian republic. At the ten-man tournament at Reggio nell'Emilia, Italy, officially the strongest chess tournament ever held, a chess diaspora is taking place. One former Soviet player, Mikhail Gurevich, represents Belgium, another, Alexander Hallman, plays for a German club. Valery Salov has become a mercenary for Spain and the great theoretician Lev Polugayevsky has joined Spassky in Paris. The world federation now insists on three years' residence before a player can represent a country in the chess Olympics. Without that measure, national teams could soon have been swamped with former Soviet grandmasters.

Will England find its

Olympic silver medals threatened by the likes of Latvia, Estonia and Ukraine, or will we inherit the USSR mantle? That is a fascinating question to which it is too early to give a definitive answer.



Playing under new rules: Anton Sidorkov, aged 18, left, and Alexei Suetin, aged 65, both representing Russia, considering their moves at the Foreign and Colonial championship at Hastings



Police seize cleaver in gang battle

Two men were injured and 10 others arrested after a street fight between rival gangs in Bradford, West Yorkshire, early yesterday. The disturbance involved about 50 Asian youths in the city's Horton Grange area.

One man is in a serious condition with head injuries after being attacked with a meat cleaver. Police, who seized the weapon, said that nine men drove off in two vehicles and were later detained after a road accident in Oldham.

They were returned to Bradford for questioning with ten local men.

Ramblers fight planning code

New guidelines for planning officers aimed at helping them to clean up derelict land around towns and cities would weaken restrictions on development in protected areas and "punch holes" in the green belt, the Ramblers Association says today.

The association fears that the guidelines, to be sent out in April by a planning officers' national advisory group, would allow development in protected countryside in exchange for funds to tidy up sites on city outskirts.

Mound found

Archaeologists believe they have discovered a large burial mound, dating from 2600 BC, at Tennyson Down, near Freshwater, Isle of Wight. It is said to be of the same type as found at Stonehenge.

Algerians held

Three Algerian men who tried to enter Britain illegally inside a freight container were arrested after being seen at a freight terminal near Mansfield, Nottinghamshire.

Ferry returns

The Cowes Express ferry service from Southampton to the Isle of Wight restarted after harbour dues were paid and a writ impounding the ferry was withdrawn.

Twitchers' day

Hundreds of bird-spotters flocked to the north Devon coast near Ilfracombe to see the Surf Scooter, an American sea duck.

Jail visitor



The Irish president, Mary Robinson, who yesterday attended Mass in the women's section of Mountjoy prison, Dublin, and met prisoners and staff.

Recycled tree

The 76ft Christmas tree in Trafalgar Square is to be shredded into compost for use in gardens and parks.

Bond winners

The winners in the National Savings Premium Bond prize draw were £100,000, number 29BW 789774, value of holding £1,000, winner lives in Roxburghshire; £50,000, 16AT 732118 (£5,570, Somerset); £25,000, 8XZ 716193 (£2,000, North Humberside).

Passengers pay as rail fare rise arrives on time

BY MICHAEL DYNES, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH Rail's annual fare increase took effect yesterday, raising the average cost of a journey by 7.75 per cent, almost twice the rate of inflation, despite the government's intervention to hold down fares.

The cost of a season ticket increased by 7.9 per cent, while passengers using recently modernised routes faced increases of about 8.9 per cent. Fare increases on the antiquated London, Tilbury and Southend line were pegged at 5 per cent.

John Prescott, Labour's transport spokesman, yesterday criticised the government for presiding over a package of fare increases "which makes British Rail the most expensive service and the worst quality service of any major railway in Europe".

Anger over the scale of the increases has been more vocal than normal, fuelled largely by growing irritation over delays and disruption caused by obsolete equipment, poor reliability during bad weather, and safety precautions during terrorist incidents.

The increases are urgently needed, however, to help offset the decline in revenue caused by the recession and falling income from property sales, while at the same time financing a backlog of modernisation schemes on InterCity, Network SouthEast and Regional Railways, will require some government subsidy.

Mr Prescott has said that the break-up and privatisation of BR will lead to a deterioration in the level and quality of services as non-profitable routes are closed, and long-term investment needs are sacrificed for short-term profits.

The Association of London Authorities, the organisation representing the capital's Labour-controlled boroughs, argues that reduced subsidies and increased fares have made transport in London the most expensive of all European capitals. The comparisons do not, however, take into account the different levels of subsidy, financed by different levels of direct taxation.

Scientist cracks secret of low cholesterol egg

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

A CANADIAN scientist has developed an egg that can be eaten without raising blood cholesterol levels.

Produced by hens fed on a special diet, the eggs are low in cholesterol and high in a fatty acid found in fish that is believed to protect against heart disease.

Dr Jeong Sim, of the department of animal sciences at the University of Alberta, has completed one study and is running another to compare the effects of eating conventional and low-cholesterol eggs.

The egg market has suffered in recent years from health scares linking cholesterol content with an increased risk of heart disease.

Although fat is now the main target of health campaigners, the recommendation is that people should not eat more than five eggs a week.

Dr Sim set out to produce

an egg with the same balance of fatty acids as fish. By enriching the chickens' diet in omega-3 fatty acids, which are found in fish, he found that the eggs were also rich in the same materials. The main source of the fatty acids was oil-seeds, which grow in large amounts in Canada.

During the autumn, Dr Sim fed a group of university students two eggs a day for 23 days and found that those eating the new eggs showed no increase in blood cholesterol, unlike those eating the conventional eggs. More significantly, those who ate the designer eggs showed a 37 per cent reduction in triglycerides, which are believed to contribute to heart disease.

Dr Sim is organising a bigger study of 100 people and says that the Canadian egg industry is keen to produce the new eggs. The only

drawback was that the eggs not only copied fish but tasted like them. That had now been solved, however, by refining the diet.

Dr Sim said that the second round of experiments using the high-acidity eggs was going well, and added: "Very soon we are going to hit the market." He was confident that the product would be well received by Canadian consumers.

In the experiments some of the volunteers, recruited through newspaper advertisements, are given ordinary eggs to eat while others are given eggs from chickens fed with mixture containing Canadian flaxseed and canola oils.

Dr Sim said he hoped that his tests would eventually make it possible to design other low-cholesterol products, such as milk.

Bernard Levin, page 16

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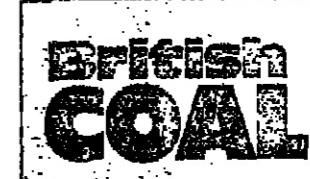
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Expatriates
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times in
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Old people's homes threaten to make costas another Eastbourne Expatriates fall on hard times in sunny Spain

UP THE dusty ochre track weaving through olive trees, Maria Consuelo Mas Montorio, a British-trained district nurse, makes her daily visit to her bedridden patient. She is the only person whom the 74-year-old British expatriate has seen over Christmas.

Less than 20 miles away, on a similar hillside at Cohn, set back from the excesses of the Costa del Sol strip, the set for a new BBC soap opera is being built. More than £10 million is being spent on the *Little England* series which chronicles the life of the expatriate British community.

While the fictional urbanisation focuses on the cliché of white marble and swimming pools, the essential elements of the British home in the sun — the surrounding hills hide a reality far removed from the dream. Thousands of those who left behind the damp chilly winters, the taxes, and the trials of growing old in Britain, to live the sort of life to be depicted by the BBC, find growing older and poorer difficult in a relatively undeveloped country where care of the old and infirm is regarded as a family responsibility and not one for the state.

Maria Consuelo Mas Montorio tends only the British in her role as a private

For many infirm and lonely Britons, life on the costas is no bed of roses,
Lin Jenkins reports

district nurse in San Pedro. She has no equivalent in the Spanish system, where home visiting nurses only administer drugs. "One lady of 88 has broken her leg and gone to a nursing home, so I am feeding her dog," she said. "There is nobody else to do things like this."

Problems often set in only when one partner dies and the remaining one falls ill. "They often have a lonely house in the mountains, a maid and a gardener, do not speak Spanish, have no transport or telephone, and no chance of getting one. I do the shopping, call the plumber — everything. I ask about relatives at home, but either they have none or feel they do not want to bother them."

Sometimes Maria has to call the local Anglican church to arrange a funeral. She has lost count of the number of Britons committed to a pauper's grave. "I have also arranged to take people back to England when their money has gone and they are infirm. They simply have to go back and be cared for by the state system in England."

Last summer an English woman was repatriated after being found alone, emaciated and senile, surrounded by starving cats in her home in Marbella.

Few envisaged the negative aspects of the cultural divide when the first wave of Britons sought for retirement in the sun 20 years ago. As the gin became more expensive and house prices failed to rise in line with those at home, many found their pensions barely adequate and could not afford to sell up and return.

Left alone, they found that while reciprocal health arrangements have existed between the two countries since



A place in the sun: Jack and Laurie Grove — "We are well off compared with some of those you hear about"

1988, in Spanish hospitals, families literally move in and see the patient's food, cleanliness and laundry.

A group of expatriates loosely based around a church fill the void. Elsie Woollard was widowed within five years of arriving in Spain in the late 1970s. "I've made many friends through my hospital work. Some cases are very sad," she said. "But I am fortunate; I have good health insurance and a family at home, unlike many who came out here."

The British embassy in Madrid acknowledges that there are problems among the 250,000 people settled in Spain, mostly on the Costa del Sol and the Costa Blanca. Laurie Grove, aged 82, now limits her social life to the occasional foray on to the catwalk at local fashion shows and visiting a few close friends. With husband Jack,

aged 87, she regards the past as good, with business having provided travel and Latin and ballroom dancing.

Both have angina, she diabetes and he an increasing hearing problem. They would like to sell their two-bedroom apartment near Marbella, but choose to wait for prices to pick up. The plan is to rent.

Their only daughter, aged 61 and a widow, visits once a year. "We are well off compared with some of those you hear about, and can cope," Jack said. "We have had a great life, a great retirement, and we'll be fine."

With their enthusiasm and careful planning they probably will, like those taking advantage of the emerging old people's homes threatening to turn the costas into Eastbourne in the sun. Others will be less fortunate.

The magazine fears that magic has become a parallel

religion, proposing an "occult information service" that would help the Catholic church spread the faith among "brothers who seek a magic God" as well as among "the professionals of the occult". It denounced the growth of an industry of "accessories for the occult", with catalogues offering portable, washable altars, "astral wands" for exorcisms, "oil of graces" to ward off the evil eye, "oil of miracles" and bottles of "Judas blood", a wine for love rituals.

Here, *Vita Pastore* warns, lies Satan, "who uses the occult to draw people into his clutches". (APF)

Consuelo Mas Montorio: only visitor

US launches 'state of the art' sub

Groton, Connecticut: Lynn Martin, the Labour Secretary, christened the USS Springfield, the US Navy's newest nuclear-powered submarine at the weekend, citing it as an example of America's technological excellence.

"American nuclear submarines are the state of the art, the leaders in this technology," she said during ceremonies at the launch of the 360ft submarine. (Reuters)

Bad intention

Stockholm: A television viewer in Sweden, where striking children is outlawed, has formally complained to police after seeing a father slap his son's face in the Ingmar Bergman drama *Good Intentions*. (Reuters)

Fatal weight

Milwaukee: A 21st 7lb woman who fatally crushed her 11st 6lb husband when she sat on him may have been the victim of abuse and might not be charged. "We understand there was some sort of family quarrel, where the wife and two children were restraining the husband", police said. (Reuters)

Work turn-off

Tokyo: Workaholics are losing favour in Japan, especially among women aged 30 to 34. 78 per cent of whom told pollsters that workaholic men were a turn-off. (APF)

Phone view

New York: A generation after making the promise, American Telephone and Telegraph Co today unveiled a \$2,000 (£1,125) telephone that can send moving pictures of callers as well as their voices. (AP)

Dream voyage

Paris: Parisians fed up with the wet, grey winter are finding solace in an exhibition vividly recalling the glamorous era of transatlantic passenger liners. "Legendary Liners" is at the Maritime Museum in the Palais de Chaillot. (Reuters)

India's weavers starve as the looms fall silent

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN KABIR BASTI, DELHI

THE hand loom weavers of India are desperate. Some are starving. Thousands are pouring into Delhi, looking for non-existent traditional work. The weavers' sum of Kabir Basti, one of several, is teeter with silent looms and dead-eyed people returning from humiliating labour as balloon sellers, domestic servants and rickshaw pullers.

Power looms have destroyed them. Hindu weavers belong to the Koli caste, who have been weavers for centuries. Muslims also have their own weaving community, which is equally desperate. The British almost crushed them when the Lancashire mills took away their work, but they were saved by Mahatma Gandhi's exhortation to boycott foreign cloth and

Hundreds of hand looms stand idle in Kabir Basti. Chunni Lal, who thinks he is about 80, owns six, all in disrepair. While other

weavers have sold their looms for firewood, Mr Lal says he will starve first. "If an old cow goes dry of milk do you simply throw it out? No, you honour it for the years of service it has given you. I have worshipped these looms throughout my life and I will not destroy them."

Near by, there is the clunk-clunk-clunk of a hand loom being operated, and from its beams and warps a bedcover is taking shape. This is a rare sight. Roshan Lal, aged 39, has enough work for a month, for which he is being paid 20 rupees (43p) a day. He does it for the dignity of employment, for which his caste destined him. He is aware that he is being exploited ruthlessly by the shopkeeper who commissioned him.

Shankar Lal — all the Koli weavers take the name Lal — is also working on bedcovers. He is being paid five rupees for each. By working 12 or 14 hours, he can make five bedcovers a day. "Some businessmen gave me the contract. There is work for about six days. I have to accept their terms. I must eat. We do anything to survive — work in factories, sell vegetables and toys, clean up other people's filth. It is humiliating, but there is no alternative."

There are 400 weavers in this slum; another nearby near houses 500 more. In all there are 10,000 weavers in Delhi, but hardly any work at their trade. The government does little to help them. Sarthi, a Delhi-based voluntary organisation that fights for traditional craftsmen, musicians and artists, wants to set up a village for such people but no government land has been offered despite many promises.

As part of the irrigation system, locally-made clay pipes are laid under the soil, a contrast to the traditional method in which farmers gather water from wells in buckets and pour it on to the crops, losing about a third of the water to evaporation.

At the pilot sites farmers pour the water into the mouths of the pipes, which then run under the crops, leaking out into the soil with minimal loss.

Engineers help a parched land live

BY NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH engineers are plotting a new water irrigation system that could help to transform Africa's harsh rural economies while improving the health, income and lives of the peoples there.

The system, being tested at two sites including the Lowveld research station in Zimbabwe, allows farmers to create lush, small-scale kitchen gardens in semi-arid areas even during droughts. The government does little to help them. Sarthi, a Delhi-based voluntary organisation that fights for traditional craftsmen, musicians and artists, wants to set up a village for such people but no government land has been offered despite many promises.

A control order approved by parliament in 1956 gave the weavers some short-lived hope. It laid down specific articles that would be reserved for hand looms, but the textile industry ignored the rules and successfully challenged the control order in court. It was the kiss of death for hand loom weaving, and the decades since have brought worsening poverty.

At the heart of the system is a collector well, which consists of a traditional hand-dug well some 30m deep from which four or more

bore-holes are drilled out to around 20m into the surrounding weathered basement rock. That is known to hold numerous small aquifers, and the radially-drilled collector wells increase the chances of hitting aquifers while boosting the well's flow from a trickle to an average of about a litre a second.

Charles Batchelor, of the Institute of Hydrology, said: "The World Bank has spent a lot of money putting in boreholes, but they go beyond the water bearing strata. The collector wells are far cheaper and much more effective."

As part of the irrigation system, locally-made clay pipes are laid under the soil, a contrast to the traditional method in which farmers gather water from wells in buckets and pour it on to the crops, losing about a third of the water to evaporation.

At the pilot sites farmers pour the water into the mouths of the pipes, which then run under the crops, leaking out into the soil with minimal loss.

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PEOPLE

Prime minister takes a pay cut

The Indian Prime Minister, P.V. Narasimha Rao, has cut his salary by 10 per cent as part of a government effort to slash its expenditure. The 70-year-old politician told cabinet of his decision by letter, and urged them to follow his lead. Volunteering a salary cut would drive home the seriousness of the financial crunch facing the country, he said. (AFP)

The Pope is to join in the 500th anniversary celebrations of Christopher Columbus's discovery of the American continent with a visit to the Dominican Republic in October. His visit could well reawaken the controversy over the work of Christian missionaries in the New World in the face of criticisms that they harmed indigenous cultures, which he has defended stoutly. (Reuters)

An unnamed worker has been crushed to death between two lighting equipment cranes on the set of the Kevin Costner movie *The Bodyguard*. Filming on the Warner Bros film, which stars Costner as a bodyguard and singer Whitney Houston as an actress he is assigned to protect, was suspended after the accident. (AP)

Billy Graham, the evangelist who spent nearly ten months on crusades and other events in Moscow, Buenos Aires and Scotland last year, plans to slow down in 1992 to spend more time with his family and work on his memoirs. Graham, aged 73, had a benign cyst removed from his left foot at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, at the weekend. "My mind and heart are still in it," he said. "I don't have the physical strength. My body keeps crying out to me to slow down." (AP)

A little girl's lost ball was returned as a Christmas present — after 78 years. "When I opened the package I said, 'Oh, what is this?'" Mildred Lambert, aged 86, of Smith Centre, Kansas, said. "But then I saw what it was, and I had to shed some tears." She was eight years old when she lost the red, blue and yellow ball in the space

between two houses; when her daughter, Sharon Lambert, heard that they were to be demolished, she wrote to the owners, who found and returned the ball.

The Azanian Youth Organisation, a black radical group, has threatened a hostile reception in South Africa for Whoopi Goldberg, the American actress, who arrived in Johannesburg on Friday to star in a local film production of the musical *Sarafina*, set in Soweto. The group also urged the American singer Paul Simon to scrap a tour of South Africa scheduled to start on Saturday. Promoters say it will go ahead.

For the second time, King Juan Carlos of Spain celebrated a birthday yesterday in a Madrid hospital recovering from knee surgery after a ski accident. He tore his right knee three days after Christmas when a skier knocked him down on the annual

royal holiday in the northern Spanish resort of Baqueira. The king, now 54, was in hospital at Christmas in 1983 after a similar accident, and could be on crutches for three months. (AP)

The five under-aged beneficiaries of the \$30 million estate of reggae singer Bob Marley could each get a payment of \$995,000 (about £660,000) by the end of the month, his widow's lawyers say. The US Supreme Court last month ordered the sale of the estate's assets to the seven adult beneficiaries and to Island Logic, a New York music company. Marley, 36, died of cancer in Miami in May 1981 without leaving a will. (AP)

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Jackie Lee

Concern grows at signs of Iraqi nuclear links with Algeria



Aiming for power: Islamic success in Algeria raises doubts on co-operation with the West

INTERNATIONAL concern is growing over the Algerian nuclear programme, after overtures to Iraqi scientists, and the growing probability of a fundamentalist Islamic government taking power in Algiers within two weeks.

Monitors fear that the present international surveillance of the Algerian nuclear programme could end if the fundamentalists come to power. Since Algiers has never signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, the monitoring is carried out only through the good will of the present government.

The International Atomic Energy Agency is unable to confirm whether uranium

David Watts reports on the outlook for the nuclear programme as Algeria's fundamentalists move towards power

and expert help had been supplied by the Iraqis to the Algerians before the strict control and United Nations observation of the Iraqis began last May. But Iraqi nuclear scientists have told the agency privately that they have been approached by the Algerians to work for them. The Libyans have also made approaches. The Algerians can, in any event, obtain natural uranium on their own account, and their nuclear programme has been helped

by China for some time. At the moment the agency has monitoring access to a facility in Algiers itself, while a 15-megawatt nuclear reactor is being built with Chinese assistance at a guarded desert base in the foothills of the Atlas mountains at Ain Oussera, 100 miles to the south of the capital. That plant is some way from completion, but the government has promised the agency that they will be allowed to inspect it when it is finished. Both the

Chinese and Algerian governments say there is no intention of manufacturing nuclear weapons. It is believed that the plant would have produced enough plutonium to make a primitive bomb by the latter half of the 1990s. Whether or not President Saddam Hussein of Iraq is helping the Algerians and intends to do so in the future depends on his psychology. In the past he has been determined on Iraqi nuclear dominance of the Middle East and concentrated resources and expertise at home, but his dispatch of many of his best military aircraft to Iran towards the end of the Gulf war suggests that he may now be

thinking more in terms of the overall Islamic interest. The agency's monitoring of rogue nuclear operations is hampered by the fact that it is given no access to the intelligence gleaned by the West, although a meeting next month of the agency's board of directors will seek to change that. But Western governments remain unhappy about sharing their intelligence with body consisting of representatives from 114 nations which, among others, includes Cuba.

In Algiers, Abdelkader Hachani, the provisional leader of the Islamic Salvation Front, which won a first-round victory in the country's

Quayle gains tougher image

FROM PETER STOTHARD
US EDITOR IN WASHINGTON

VICE-PRESIDENT Dan Quayle will lead the Bush campaign into the New Hampshire primary battle this week buoyed by an unusually favourable press portrait of his political acumen.

According to a seven-part investigation by *The Washington Post*, which began yesterday, the standard perception that he stumbled into the vice-presidency in 1988 by accident is a mistake: "It was the happy result of months of subtle, even stealthy, planning".

Mr Quayle is reported, by his own admission, to have "rolled the dice" for the number two place on the Bush ticket in February 1988, six months before his surprise selection. Although few took any notice of the then virtually unknown senator from Indiana, Mr Quayle began to look for what he called a "career advancement". It was time, he said, "to begin to develop some wings and see if you can fly".

The Post team depicts Mr Quayle's wife, Marilyn, as his key adviser who argued it was a "win-win" choice for him to try for the job held by five of the last nine occupants of the White House.

One who did notice the campaign to raise the Quayle profile by appeals to conservatives on defence was Senator William Cohen of Maine. "It looked like there was a campaign to get Bush's attention", he said of the spate of articles and speeches which began as soon as the 1988 New Hampshire campaign was over and Mr Bush seemed assured of the nomination. The Quayle strengths — youth, photogenic appeal, Midwestern and conservative background — were carefully presented before Mr Bush, who was seen as keen to pick a running mate who had not opposed him in the past.

Yesterday's article provides a useful boost for the Bush-Quayle ticket as it prepares to fight off the conservative, Patrick Buchanan, in New Hampshire. The past six months have been good for Mr Quayle, who has appeared steady and confident while the White House has rocked in the recession. When he speaks to voters in the first primary on Wednesday he will not only have gone a long way to kill his comic reputation but have begun to put an image of toughness and capability in its place.

Bush greeted in Korea by protest over spy planes

BY SIMON WARNER IN SEOUL
AND DAVID WATTS IN LONDON

AS A sharp reminder that he was heading for the world's last Cold War flashpoint, President Bush was greeted on his arrival in Seoul yesterday by a complaint from North Korea that American spy planes had been patrolling the border between North and South in the last few days.

Mr Bush's visit is intended to help relieve the tension on the peninsula by underlining American determination to put an end to the North's plans to develop a nuclear weapon. The US intelligence flights along the dividing line between North and South are routine affairs which become more crucial when US presidents visit.

The president's visit comes after the withdrawal of all US nuclear weapons from the South, which should invalidate North Korea's requirement to match the nuclear capability of the South. Despite two agreements between the two Koreas in December — one on non-aggression, exchanges and co-operation signed on December 13, and one on making the peninsula nuclear-free initialised on December 31 — there is still concern that North Korea's nuclear development programme may already have made progress in its own atomic bomb.

Although Mr Bush is portraying his trip as an export mission and bringing with him a party of business executives to prove it, his South Korean hosts are quietly con-

cerned that with last year's huge trade deficit and steps already taken, such as opening the Korean stock exchange to foreign investments, they will be able to resist any more trade pressure. They are adamant that nothing is going to open their rice market.

Farmers held scattered demonstrations yesterday to remind Mr Bush and their government that rice imports are unacceptable. In the past few days consumers and civic groups have issued statements opposing market opening for agricultural products.

In an election year the government is all but certain not to commit political suicide by giving any ground on this issue, and is playing up the security aspects of the visit.

In his talks with President Roh Tae Woo of South Korea, Mr Bush is sure to be told what South Korea expects from its big brother to move forward the process of reunifying this bitterly divided nation. He is likely to be reminded that this is a South Korean matter, but that America still has much to contribute by pushing for international inspection of North Korea's nuclear facilities and holding out the hope to the increasingly isolated regime in Pyongyang of rewards for good behaviour.

The US has already agreed to allow North Korea, which is technically an enemy nation, to inspect its military bases at the same time as the South. Inspectors suspected nuclear facilities, such as the one at Yongbyon, in the North. South Korea has also renounced any means of making a nuclear weapon, such as reprocessing facilities, and the North did the same in the December 31 accord.

Forced to compromise by the changes on the international front in 1991 and their domestic problems — elections in the South during an economic downturn and economic collapse in the North along with the loss of its allies — the two Koreas drew up the accords in an amazing display of concord, but the real challenge is translating the vague contents into tangible progress towards unification.

Leading article, page 17

Roh: will press Bush on unification process



Making her mark: Naomi Yanase, aged six, struggling with a big writing-brush as she took part in a new year's calligraphy contest in Tokyo yesterday. About 7,700 calligraphers competed in the event

Carey brings counsel of hope

FROM RICHARD BEESTON
IN JERUSALEM

DR GEORGE Carey, the Archbishop of Canterbury, succeeded yesterday in overcoming the effects of the current cold snap and the Middle East's toruous political landscape.

Arriving in the Holy City to mark the 150th anniversary of the first Anglican bishop to Jerusalem, Dr Carey first had to negotiate a hurdle of almost biblical proportions.

On his journey overland from Amman, the Archbishop was confronted by the Jordan river, normally little more than a sluggish stream but yesterday transformed by recent rain and snow into a torrent which broke its banks, closing the Allenby bridge crossing to the West Bank.

Israeli and Jordanian military authorities opened a second crossing point upstream at the Adam bridge, making the Archbishop five hours late for his sermon at St George's Anglican cathedral in east Jerusalem.

During his visit, the Archbishop will meet Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli prime minister, President Herzog and Teddy Kollek, the mayor of Jerusalem. Yesterday he held talks with a delegation of Palestinian leaders headed by Faisal Husseini, the most prominent figure in the occupied territories.

In spite of the delay, and the political minefield of the Arab-Israeli conflict, the Archbishop appeared initially to have overcome successfully the problems of offering constructive Christian advice without leaving the impression that he is either an ally or a potential enemy.

"I find myself caught up in the pain of different communities," he said. "I think of the Jewish people, who have passed through so much and who have returned to the home of their faith, but who still fear for their security."

"But I also think of the Palestinian community, often ignored and overlooked. This is your home too. Both communities have a right to belong here, and each community should recognise that right in the other."

Marcos 'befuddled by drugs' before downfall

FROM REUTER IN MANILA

FERDINAND Marcos, the former president of the Philippines, was a compulsive pill-taker befuddled by prescribed drugs and undergoing regular kidney dialysis when he fell from power in 1986, a new book claims.

The book discloses that Marcos's only son, Ferdinand, donated one of his kidneys for transplant to his father in August 1983. Marcos's body rejected the organ after 48 hours, it says.

Another kidney, from a nephew, was transplanted 15 months later. It functioned for four years, but collapsed in 1989, just before Marcos died, the book says.

The book, *Ferdinand E. Marcos, Malakalang* to Makiki (the Honolulu suburb which was his last home) was written by Colonel Arturo Aruiza, an aide who served Marcos for 21 years. It says Marcos started to undergo

haemodialysis in 1979. During foreign visits he would disappear from public view for four-hour dialysis sessions.

Aruiza claims that Marcos would take pills compulsively, gulping down large amounts of vitamins.

The book, published in Manila recently, describes how aides burnt and shredded documents, packed jewellery and bundles of money in bags and boxes, and gave their ailing leader a last, sad salute as he left the palace just before it was overrun by "people power".

Aruiza writes: "He seemed befuddled. Because of the medicines and the constant sedatives, he was unfocused much of the time. Even with things disintegrating swiftly, he seemed to live in the past."

The book claims that Washington was involved in the anti-Marcos revolt and quotes the former president as saying, while the rebellion was in progress, "the Americans are in on this".

The book describes Marcos groping from hallway to bedroom, "a sick and tired old man who wanted only a little peace", as the four-day rebellion spread. At one point, Aruiza says, he shouted at Marcos, urging him to act, but the president looked at him coldly before retiring to his room.

The book describes Marcos's efforts while in exile, to seek asylum in another country. But Washington thwarted him, it says. In 1987, after an abortive coup in Manila by troops loyal to Marcos, three officials of the American State Department visited Marcos in Makiki and told him "in the nakedest language possible" to abandon all hope of returning to Manila. Marcos was "completely crushed", it says.

Talks in balance as Arabs stay away

FROM RICHARD BEESTON
IN JERUSALEM

ISRAELI negotiators set off last night to resume scheduled peace talks in Washington, but their counterparts in four Arab delegations vowed to stay at home in protest at the threatened deportation of a dozen Palestinian activists from the occupied territories.

The postponement and threatened boycott by the Arab side do not augur well for the peace process, particularly since they appeared to follow the pattern set at the talks in Washington last month, when the Israeli side arrived a week late. The present impasse, caused by Israel's decision on Thursday to expel 12 Palestinians suspected of masterminding attacks on Israelis, is not expected to put an end to the American-led peace initiative but has hardened positions on both sides and ruled out progress in the near future.

Hanan Ashrawi, the Palestinian spokeswoman, who was criticised yesterday by Palestinian hardliners for staying in the delegation, said: "I think the more Israel persists in this, the more difficult it will be to pursue a peace process."

At yesterday's Israeli cabinet meeting, there was broad approval for the expulsion decision, which has been condemned by the United States and other powers. The United Nations Security Council is expected to debate a resolution on the matter today.

• **Beirut:** An unknown gunman yesterday killed one of Yasir Arafat's intelligence chiefs in Sidon. Hussein Selim, also known as Abu Selim, was murdered in front of his wife and daughter (Ali Jaber writes).

Abu Selim controlled the intelligence branch in Lebanon of Fatah, the PLO's main guerrilla organisation. His killing was seen as another episode in the struggle between Mr Arafat and the growing fundamentalist movements inside the Palestinian refugee camps.

Archer's mission delayed

By HAZIR TEIMOURIAN

JEFFREY Archer, the author, who is visiting the Kurdish area of Iraq to investigate the fate of the funds he helped to raise last year for Kurdish refugees, was trapped by heavy snow in the mountains in the allied enclave to the east of Zakho yesterday. He was forced to postpone his planned talks with Masoud Barzani, one of the two principal Kurdish leaders.

Mr Archer is planning to meet Mr Barzani in the town of Shaqlawa. He also plans to meet Jalal Talabani, the other Kurdish leader, in the city of Sulaymaniyah during a week-long stay. Mr Archer's party was welcomed to Zakho by several hundred Kurds who made veiled references to the way some of the £57 million aid raised at a rock concert in London last May had been spent.

NEW YORK NOTEBOOK by Charles Bremner

Stockbroker makes a killing in the car wars

Parking in Manhattan has always driven motorists to distraction. Ignore one of those signs threatening "Do Not Even Think of Parking Here" and your car will be snatched off the street by privately operated tow-trucks and delivered to the police pound. The only alternative to paying up to £20 a day in a private garage is to join battle for the few legal spots, a process which can sometimes end in fistfights and even bullets.

In one of the city's more curious rituals, pyjama-clad residents can be seen leaping into the streets before dawn to move their cars in compliance with alternate-side rules which allow sweepers to pass and ensure that nobody leaves a car permanently parked. Now a local entrepreneur has come up with a novel scheme to help frustrated drivers — a parking spot brokerage.

A payment of \$75 (£42) buys membership of the Street Parking Clearance Corp, run by Val Faria, a former stockbroker, in the Upper East Side, a congested residential

district. When Motorist A is about to pull away from the curb, he calls Mr Faria to tell him his departure time. Mr Faria then passes the information to Motorist B, who is looking for a spot and sends him to Motorist A's spot. B gives Mr Faria \$9 for the privilege of acquiring the space and he passes on \$4 to A.

The city authorities say there is nothing illegal in parking brokerage, but there is a catch. It is illegal to prevent "non-members" from taking a legal spot.

Concession of a parking space is by no means the end of a New York driver's travails. Theft and vandalism against cars is so rampant that many New Yorkers simply leave the doors open and leave a sign saying "everything stolen already". That way would-be thieves refrain from smashing the windows when they

want to use the car as a bedroom or lavatory, a routine occurrence at night.

Thanks to these conditions, many New Yorkers forgo the American birthright of car ownership and hire their vehicles when they need them. On Friday afternoons the queues at Manhattan rental counters take on the air of a singles bar for young professionals. The special place of the hire car in local affections explains the furor which has been raging over the weekend after Hertz, the biggest company, announced that New Yorkers were such bad and dishonest drivers, and the local laws so unfair to the company, that New Yorkers will have to pay a surcharge of as much as \$56 a day.

The news has triggered protest marches by usually black citizens and attempts by city officials to throw Hertz out of its lucrative offices at the city's airports. The company says its action is strictly common sense.

New Yorkers are far more likely to run into something or steal the car than non-New Yorkers, and the state makes matters worse by operating a "vicarious liability" law under which the hire company can be sued for damage done by a customer. In one recent case, a Brooklyn customer lent his Hertz car to an under-age, unlicensed

driver who then hit a pedestrian. Hertz was ordered by the courts to pay \$2.5 million in damages.

Capital punishment may be allowed in the American Constitution, but condemned men in California's death row are insisting that it cannot deprive them of the right to procreate.

In a lawsuit, 14 of the prisoners at San Quentin prison have demanded tens of thousands of dollars in damages for pain, suffering and emotional distress because the state is not allowing them to have their wives and girlfriends inseminated with their semen.

Carter King, a lawyer for the men, said: "Not only are they being sentenced to die, but future generations of their family are also being executed."

He said the state authorities could have no fears about security with artificial insemination, as they might with conjugal visits. "These frozen sperm will not arm themselves with machineguns and take dad over the wall," he said.

NEW YORK POST
PARKING SPOTS FOR SALE
En-Wall Street with selling spaces on the Upper East St

Proud Russians resent 'charity' from rich West

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

THE initial failure of the Western food aid effort to Russia may be due to bureaucracy, incompetence, corruption — or all three. In addition, there is extreme public sensitivity here about charity from the "rich" West as Russians do not want to be seen as beggars who will accept anything.

Last winter, KGB officials found a receptive audience when they accused Western governments and charities of off-loading sub-standard food and grain to the Soviet Union in the guise of aid shipments. At the time, the allegations seemed intended to cast aspersions on the then largely private Western aid effort and explain why many

The meat sales have a dual purpose: they are intended to

ensure that consumers have something to buy as prices rise to market levels and also to prevent the distortion of the market by speculators holding back domestic production in the hope of still higher prices. Speaking last week, Michael Emerson, the EC ambassador in Moscow, said that this form of "market intervention" had been effective during Poland's "shock therapy" programme in plugging the gap between the announcement of price rises and the appearance of goods in the shops. The Moscow and St Petersburg auctions are expected to begin in the next two weeks.

At present, in spite of up to tenfold price rises for many cuts of meat on Thursday, little has come on to the open market. In contrast, the peasant markets have abundant supplies at prices which reflect not only their scarcity value but also it is widely believed, a system of unofficial cartels which price liberalisation has done nothing to break. At the Moscow central market at the weekend, good quality beef was selling for between 250 and 350 roubles for 2lb, depending on the cut, £116 at the official rate of exchange or £4.30 at the tourist rate), which is more than half the average monthly wage and three times more than the new price in state shops.

Another three republics, Kazakhstan, Turkmenia and Moldavia, were poised to free prices today following the example set by Russia, Ukraine, Belarusia, Armenia and Kirghizia last week. Uzbekistan and Tajikistan are also planning to free prices, leaving Azerbaijan as the only member of the new commonwealth with the old system of heavy subsidies. The non-Russian republics say that Moscow's action forced their hand. Russia's dominance would have meant that scarce goods would simply flow into Russia, leaving consumers elsewhere in an even worse position than before.

Even without taking bribes (which is a widespread supplement to the earnings of many officials, medical staff and even teachers), many people, especially in the trade and service sectors, earn far more through unofficial channels than they do officially. Lorry drivers, allocated fuel by the month, have often been reported as siphoning it out and selling it on the Moscow outer ring road.

A taxi driver charging by the meter rather than by bartering has long been a rarity in Moscow. Even in those sectors which do not easily lend themselves to earning "on the side", the opportunities are endless. Goods bought at state prices can be sold at black-market prices, or through "commercial" kilos or second-hand stores.

Moscow's limited rationing system, introduced last year, increased the opportunities for speculation still further. Those who did not use their tobacco, vodka or sugar coupons simply sold them at a mark-up. So did shop-assistants who recycled coupons already redeemed.

That was the explanation offered by one Moscow official in answer to complaints that people could not redeem their coupons. While many remained thirsty, the city's records showed that the quantity of vodka sold through state outlets far exceeded the number of coupons issued, yet there was still not enough to go round.

While state prices existed, every item had a state price and a "free" price: anything up to the "free" price was seen as a bargain. That is why the free prices introduced this week in Moscow were less of a shock than outsiders had expected, and why many predicted that the new prices were still not high enough.



Ring of fire: a man at San Diego, California, watching a solar eclipse at 01.50 GMT yesterday during which a circle of sunlight surrounded the Moon's dark disc (AP reports from San Diego). The Sun, 82 per cent eclipsed.

Besieged Georgia leader makes referendum offer

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN TBILISI

REBELS pounded President Gamsakhurdia's stronghold with rocket and machinegun fire yesterday, and he offered to hold a referendum on demands that he resign.

But Zviad Gamsakhurdia, speaking to reporters in his makeshift bower under the parliament building, gave no indication that his determination to hold power had been weakened by two weeks of fighting that has cost at least 73 lives. "This is not a democratic opposition, this is an armed, terrorist junta," he said, referring to the military council that claimed control over Georgia last week.

At least one small rocket scored a direct hit yesterday on the parliament building. But the sturdy marble structure was barely damaged. Mr Gamsakhurdia's troops, estimated at 300 to 500 men, defended the building with a tank and several armoured personnel carriers.

The Georgian president, who is 52, looking pale and worried but speaking calmly in English, said the rebels had cut all telephone lines to his stronghold and were attempting to shut off food and medicine. But he said they were not strong enough to storm it.

They accuse Mr Gamsakhurdia of seizing dictatorial powers, shutting down opposition newspapers and violating human rights since he was elected last May. About 1,500 Gamsakhurdia supporters defied the military council's ban on demonstrations and held a rally yesterday outside Tbilisi's railway station, well away from the battle zone. On Friday, a similar rally was dispersed by about 15 opposition gunmen who threw smoke bombs into the crowd and opened fire with automatic rifles, killing at least two demonstrators.

Gamsakhurdia supporters, holding clenched fists above their heads, chanted "Down with the junta" during yesterday's rally, which remained peaceful and ended after an hour. Entrances to the square were guarded by neutral militiamen and demonstrators said they were not afraid. "I fear for Georgia, not for myself," said Kacha Kochatadze, a law student. "If the military council gains power, there will be a new Lebanon in Georgia."

The military commander, Gia Karkashvili, speaking on rebel-held Georgian television, said the ban on demonstrations was intended to preserve order. He noted that both pro- and anti-Gamsakhurdia rallies were banned, and contended that Mr Gamsakhurdia had little popular support. "Today in Tbilisi you can hardly find 500 people who are loyal to the president," he said.

Mr Gamsakhurdia said he was confident he would win a referendum on remaining president. But he was not optimistic that the rebel leaders would accept his offer. "If they speak about resignation of the president, it must be solved by referendum. Yes, I am ready. But they do not want that, they know they will be defeated. They want to take power by violence," he declared.

The Tass news agency reported yesterday that Armenia has offered political asylum to Mr Gamsakhurdia and his family.

The rebels, in a bid to broaden their support yesterday freed Torez Kulumbegov, who was jailed by Mr Gamsakhurdia's government for his activities in South Ossetia, a small corner of the republic where an ethnic minority is trying to break away from Georgia.

The military commander, Gia Karkashvili, speaking on rebel-held Georgian television, said the ban on demonstrations was intended to

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Salute to Cossack past as Ukraine troops take oath

FROM ROBERT SEELY IN KIEV

UKRAINE'S founding national guard regiments yesterday pledged their oaths of loyalty to the newly independent republic, accentuating the rift between Kiev and Moscow over the future of the former Soviet Union's military apparatus.

To the strains of Cossack marches and the melancholy national anthem "Ukraine has not yet died," 500 men from the Novorossiysk regiment in Kiev marched past the republic's blue-and-yellow flag, consigning their Soviet military traditions to the regimental museum room. At other barracks in the Ukraine a further 10,000 national guardsmen took their oaths.

The timing of yesterday's pledges of loyalty will not endear the Ukrainian leadership to Marshal Yevgeni Shaposhnikov, the Commonwealth defence minister, who at a press conference last weekend described Ukraine's step-by-step plans

to commandeer the Soviet military machine on its territory as "excessively hasty". The marshal said that the situation throughout the commonwealth was "critical". He is expected in Kiev within the next day for talks with his Ukrainian counterpart, Air Force General Konstantin Morozov.

His demands concerning a single Commonwealth of Independent States' oath and strategic command's control of the Black Sea Fleet will be politely refused. Staff at the Ukrainian defence ministry took their republican oath of loyalty on Friday, while on Saturday General Morozov emphasised that Ukraine considered itself to be a "naval power". A senior Ukrainian defence committee member said yesterday: "Shaposhnikov will leave here with empty hands."

Today Orthodox Christmas eve will be marked with ceremonies throughout

Ukraine granting honourable discharges to the 20 per cent of Soviet officers from other republics who have refused to take the Ukrainian "shilling". Army units here are expected to start taking their pledges within a fortnight.

Only the light-blue sashes worn by flag bearers, and the golden lettering NG on the red epaulettes of privates and officers at the Florivsky barracks, yesterday distinguished the new national guard troops from their former status as interior ministry soldiers.

However, although the appearances may be temporarily still Soviet, the traditions are already changing. Appealing to the memory of Ukraine's Cossack ancestors, whose power succumbed under Moscow's yoke, Major-General Volodimir Kukharets, commander-in-chief of the national guard, called on his troops to be "trustworthy defend-

ers of our native mother Ukraine".

He went on: "We are witnesses of an historic event. I believe we will honourably earn the trust of the people, renewing and building the military traditions of our ancestors, the Zaporozhian Cossacks, whose glory passed to us over the centuries."

Parents, girlfriends and families were less sure of the national guard's future role.

"We don't care if it's the Red

or the Ukrainian army, as

long as there isn't a war; we

don't want a war," said one woman, watching her 18-year-old son sign his oath of allegiance.

The oaths marked a sym-

bolic turning point for both

Ukraine's and the former

Soviet armed forces. The

Novorossiysk regiment, the

senior unit in the New

Guard, provided sentries for

Stalin, Churchill and Roose-

velt at the 1945 Yalta

conference.

UN presses on with Croatia buffer plans

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN NEW YORK AND TIM JUDAH AND DESSA TREVISAN IN BELGRADE

THE United Nations moved ahead with plans yesterday to put a force of 10,000 peacekeepers into Serbian-held Croatia, but Cyrus Vance, the envoy who negotiated the latest truce, said a final go-ahead would depend on the main combatants holding their fire for days or weeks.

As UN officials grew cautiously optimistic about Friday's ceasefire, the 15th so far in the Yugoslav conflict, the Belgrade government told European states it would not accept the participation of troops from any EC member, Western diplomats said.

In Yugoslavia, federal forces yesterday handed over the military port of Split to the Croat authorities along with 250 tonnes of arms and ammunition in part of a deal which is seeing the gradual withdrawal of the Yugoslav military from the whole of the republic.

Zagreb radio reported that, before leaving in two cargo ships for Montenegro, soldiers destroyed their vehicles, and that as they sailed the Croatian flag was raised over the old naval base. The Yugoslav army handed over the port of Lora and the confiscated Croatian arms isolated clashes marred the ceasefire.

Mr Vance yesterday briefed Bourous Boutros Ghali, the new UN secretary-general, on the outline of a peace-monitoring plan which will be reviewed by the security council on Wednesday. He declined to say whether he had recommended deployment of a UN force, but noted that this would depend on the combatants observing the ceasefire. "One can tell, if you watch over a period of days and perhaps even weeks, as to whether or not it is going to stick," he said.

Britain, which is president of the security council this month, is co-ordinating plans for the force, which will include 8,000 lightly armed infantrymen who will patrol UN-protected areas in Croatia and set up checkpoints to prevent military formations or arms and explosives from entering the areas.

Croatia, Serbia and the Yugoslav army have accepted the UN offer to send forces to oversee the battle regions, as well as agreeing to withdraw their own military and hand over to local police forces. The main hitch so far was the refusal of Milan Babic, the president of the Krajina enclave in Croatia, to abide by the agreement. Some Croat units are also said to be unwilling to lay down their arms. However, Mr Vance said in New York yesterday that he expected these issues to be resolved.

The reluctance of Belgrade to accept any EC troops was a clear signal of disapproval of the European decision, led by Germany, to move towards recognising the independence of Croatia and Slovenia. Troops are expected to come from Canada, America and traditionally neutral member countries, although no invitations have yet been extended.

For the UN, inserting a force in the civil strife represents one of its biggest and riskiest deployments. Similar forces, cobbled together hastily to act as a buffer in Cyprus 28 years ago and in Lebanon in 1978, proved powerless to halt offensives by determined

Delors urges nuclear force for the EC

BY PHILIP JACOBSON

JACQUES Delors, the president of the European Commission, ventured into French defence policy yesterday when he advocated that the nation's cherished nuclear force should eventually be put at the disposal of the European Community.

"If we are really on the way towards a political entity with a common foreign policy on basic issues, then I consider that France's nuclear force should be available to serve that policy," he told French television viewers. Since M Delors is now increasingly mentioned in France as a potential Socialist candidate to succeed President Mitterrand, his remarks are certain to attract wide attention here.

The independence of the nuclear force de frappe, composed of land-based missiles, bombers and submarines, has been central to French defence policy since General de Gaulle pulled the country



Changing loyalties: a former Soviet soldier pledges to serve the people of Ukraine

ARCHITECTURE

Colour him a non-specialist

So avant-garde are Will Alsop buildings that some are hardly recognisable as buildings at all. His Visitors' Centre at Cardiff Bay is like an immensely long, squashed Swiss roll, raised on deckchair supports. On Friday, this remarkable object was given an official blessing, chosen by the Royal Institute of British Architects as one of six National Architecture Award winners.

Alsop has also put forward designs for a new Cardiff Bay tidal barrage, which he envisages as "one gigantic artwork" with colourful hotels, pavilions and fishing piers along the structure. But that lies in the future, whereas the Visitors' Centre has been up and running for 12 months, attracting 100,000 visitors. If audacity counts for anything, it surely stands a good chance of being chosen, later this month, as the RIBA's building of the year.

Examples of Alsop's boldness are dotted all over Europe. The roof of a supermarket now rising outside Caen in Normandy looks like a giant plaice lazing in the shallows (he says the idea comes from his son's Manta Force spaceship). For Berlin's Potsdamerplatz, he has proposed a series of elongated structures looking like high-tech animals clustered round a watering hole. His forms are inspired by windsocks, cigars, torpedoes and zeppelins.

Inevitably the shock is sometimes too much for sensitive souls. Immediately after he won the competition for a

Will Alsop, who won a national design award on Friday, talks to Marcus Binney



Alsop: not convinced that "form follows function"

new departmental headquarters in Marseille, the mayor told him sharply: "The penis must go".

Nevertheless that building remains as extraordinary as anything imagined by the creators of Dan Dare. "This will be my Pompidou Centre," Alsop says.

At 43 he is ten years younger than Norman Foster and Richard Rogers, and feels keenly that the way they and Jim Stirling were lionised in the Eighties proved a block to his generation. "I keep telling myself that Sir John Soane won the Bank of England at 27. In Britain we are always told you never get

anything until you are 40." Now he has an avalanche of ideas. "I'd love to design a hospital. Society has this idea that you have to be a specialist to design a hospital. The result is that nothing changes. Doctors, nurses, patients can demand something better, but they need an inspiring example to point to."

His trim new floating fire station on the Thames opposite parliament nearly fell foul of the same "must have a specialist" syndrome. The design had been agreed when the chief engineer exclaimed: "There's a hitch. You're not on the approved list." Fortunately the engineer knew how to pull the right string.

Alsop develops the initial forms of his buildings in large oil paintings, many of which hang in his office. "With painting, there are no rules. I'm free to explore. Increasingly I find that if buildings work aesthetically, they work functionally. At architectural school we were taught Corbusier's dictum that 'form follows function'. I fight against it. In Corbusier's own late work you find a fantastic freedom too."

As he paints more and more, colour becomes increasingly important in his architecture. "It's not the colour coding of different parts, as in the Pompidou. It's colour for its own sake. Rogers and Foster find, are going increasingly for a very controlled use of colour, for transparency or cool greys and whites."



The Cardiff Bay Visitors' Centre, designed by Alsop Lyall and Stormer, it won an award from the Royal Institute of British Architects

Alsop once again is rebelling. "For me only Louis Barragan, who worked in Mexico, has explored colour in architecture to its full potential." At Marseille the whole building will be a matt blue with the colour baked onto the glass outside.

Alsop feels architects are partly to blame for their loss of status, though not for the reason one might expect. "The profession is afraid of taking on responsibilities. For example, they fought against accepting collateral warranties like chartered surveyors. Architects should be responsible for site safety. It's another challenge which informs the

process of design." His concern is to have responsibility and control of a building all the way through to completion.

Currently he is involved in a project for the riverfront at Bordeaux. "Now the ships have gone, the *raison d'être* for those great classical buildings has vanished." So the mayor commissioned ideas from six highly individual architects. Jean Nouvel was given the task of creating a dialogue between the two banks of the Garonne. Calatrava asked to design an adventurous new bridge. Alsop's task was the river itself, and he has conceived a

submerged structure described (with overtones of Debussy) as "la cathédrale engloutie".

Linked to the bank at three points, a long chain of linked transparent sections will lie on the river bed and move with snake-like subtlety in response to the river flow; it will slowly disappear as the tide comes in.

In Britain Alsop has designed a new station at Tottenham Hale, at the interchange between the Stansted airport rail link and the Victoria Line. Originally this was to have a continuous

tunnel roof in fabric wrapped round the raised tracks in a powerful aerodynamic curve. But an article appeared in America saying that the Teflon he proposed to use could, at extreme temperatures, give off noxious fumes.

"We calculated it would only happen in the heat of an oil tanker fire," he says, "but this came just after the King's Cross disaster." The building is now an elegant transparent glass and white steel box, with the curved tunnel moved to the entrance.

In the Berlin competition he has beaten Norman Foster into the final five (the others are all Germans) and is therefore likely to be invited to do one of the buildings. With few exceptions, he says, he does not enter competitions in Britain. "Here you are expected to do a vast amount of work for little or even no return at all. In France or Germany, once you are on the invited shortlist the fee is good and pays your time and expenses."

Now that there are calls for more competitions in Britain, the question is whether clients will be willing to pay enough to attract individuals like Alsop. If they do, the sparks will certainly fly. Alsop's buildings tend to outrage and delight in equal measure.

ADRIAN BROOKS



BRIEFING Branches all over

MIKHAEL Baryshnikov, who has not danced in Britain since 1985, is returning to London in April for the British premiere of his "White Oak Dance Project". White Oak was created in 1990 by the Russian classical dancer in partnership with the New York-based choreographer Mark Morris as a showpiece for contemporary American choreography. Named after the plantation in Florida owned by the arts patron Howard Gilman, where the troupe is based, White Oak Dance Project has already completed four sell-out tours in the United States. Baryshnikov and his company will perform at Sadler's Wells Theatre from April 2 to 12, presenting works by Martha Clarke, David Gordon, Lar Lubovitch, Meredith Monk and Mark Morris.

Northern light

BILL Brown, the chairman of Scottish Television, has been named to succeed Sir Alan Peacock as chairman of the Scottish Arts Council when he retires on April 1. Despite his media credentials, Brown has a solid background of service in the arts, having been on the boards of both Scottish Opera and the Museums Council. Although Brown takes over at a time when the SAC is enjoying a 14 per cent increase in its annual budget, Peacock says his successor will need to contend with the same problems he tried to tackle: "Although 80 per cent of Scots attend some art event during each year, the bulk of the council's funds still benefits only a very small minority of the population."

Last chance . . .

PETER Hall's genial revival of Moléne's *Tartuffe*, with John Sessions a pretty unmenacing titular hypocrite, may not explain why some of the 17th-century religious wanted its author burned as a heretic. But it is worth seeing for a wonderfully illuminated performance from Paul Edgington as the respectable, duped hypochondriac in search of a cure-all. Ends Saturday at the Playhouse, (071-839 4401).

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YOU

THEATRE

From the big screen to a small stage

Veteran film-maker Karel Reisz has been tempted back to the theatre to direct the British premiere of Tom Murphy's Irish "masterpiece", *The Gigli Concert*. Matt Wolf reports

Irish drama continues to assert a strong presence in London with the long-delayed British premiere tomorrow of Tom Murphy's *The Gigli Concert*, which follows *Dancing at Lughnasa* and the *Hedda Gabler* starring Fiona Shaw, directed by Deborah Warner, as the latest Abbey Theatre success to travel from Dublin to London. On this occasion, Murphy's 1983 play is being completely re-conceived for London with a new leading man (Barry Foster), and a director — Karel Reisz — best known for his work in the cinema, from *Isadora* over 25 years ago to the 1989 *Everybody Wins*.

The play also allows Londoners another glimpse of a writer who made his mark in Britain 30 years ago with *A Whistle in the Dark*, but who has been seen only intermittently in the decades

since. This despite the fact that on home turf the 56-year-old Murphy is considered one of a seminal trio of Irish playwrights, alongside Brian Friel and Hugh Leonard.

But the author of such verbal cavalcades as *Bailegangair* and *Conversations On A Homecoming* resists such praise. "The word masterpiece is a terrible one for a writer who is still making his living. It is a great word for a painter, but I am not sure audiences want to see modern masterpieces. Modesty does not come into it: the fact is, I like the play, but there are other plays that, without consciously thinking about it, I regard as more favoured children."

The Gigli Concert has long been mooted for London, both in the West End with a management who kept the rights tied up for years, and also for Michael Bogdanoff's English Shakespeare Company. Its present production was made possible once the West End rights lapsed, which enabled Almeida artistic director Ian McDiarmid and Jonathan Kent to pick up the play, pairing Murphy with director Reisz. "They just sent it to me, and I liked the play; the decision was purely that," Reisz says in

a separate interview, clearly tired after a barnstorming discussion with Murphy that kept both men up until 3am. With only one previous theatre credit (*John Guare's Gardenia*, Off-Broadway), Reisz acknowledges he is treading on virgin territory, and he is quick to pinpoint the different requirements of directing for film and theatre.

"In the theatre, you serve the author in a very different way," says Reisz. "In film, the actual language through which the audience receives the prose, if you will, is pictures. The film is the film whereas a play is a version of the text; the text exists before and after the production, so one's whole sense of responsibility is quite different. It isn't you that's out there; it's your version of something that somebody else has done."

Murphy feels that the present partnership "adds to the adventure of the play, and obviously the gamble. I didn't know Karel until we met some months ago, and I didn't know Barry Foster." Based in Dublin since 1970, after spending most of the Sixties in London, he admits to having lost touch with the British theatre, working in Ireland largely with Garry Hynes, first at the Druid in

Galway, and now at the Abbey, where she will revive *Conversations On A Homecoming* next month.

"My relationships with various directors, particularly Garry, have been very special and important," Murphy says. "But then I think I haven't had much choice in the matter. There aren't that many directors in Ireland in the first place."

Reisz, in turn, welcomes the change of pace in a career that went from documentary film-making to features, even as colleagues such as Lindsay Anderson were keeping a hand in the theatre. "I have twice been offered things before, but not being a theatre director, I would get the bottom of the pile, so directing a play never seemed like a real possibility."

He is an apt choice, he feels, for the current play, given its focus on actors and the word. "I would not dare to do something with complicated choreography," he says, finding in his own work an equivalent interest to the attention Murphy pays to performers. "Acting is central in my films, and I am not particularly visual. When I make films, I am not one of those with an image in my head: it's the other way round, so working with actors is a large proportion of what I do."

Reisz points out that the time involved in theatre has

its upside, as well. "From the point of view of one's life on a day-to-day basis, the whole thing takes two months instead of two years." Would he like to be on the list of directors regularly considered for stage work? Reisz nods in assent and says: "I just feel if a text comes along that is great, yes, I would like to have a go."

• *The Gigli Concert* previews tonight at the Almeida Theatre, London N1 (071-359 4404) and opens tomorrow.



Shared emphasis on the performers: *The Gigli Concert's* director Karel Reisz (right) and author Tom Murphy

Classical MUSIC

Raising the pitch and profile of Purcell

Stephen Pettitt meets Robert King, a champion of the work of composer Henry Purcell

To 1695, and consequently they give an insight into how his style develops. Purcell is completely unbothered by duff texts. It was a late 17th century idea that they went along to hear lovely sounds, and they got them. Every ode has at least one real gem in it. I'm quite sure the court adored these things, and not just because they were sycophantic texts saying nice things were."

Whether 15 albums of church music — the first of which appears in March — will whet the present record-buying public's appetite remains to be seen. King, however, is confident that the quality of this material will also duly beguile. "The Chapel Royal choir, for which this music was written, operated on two fronts, sometimes with the full complement of vingt-quatre violins, but more often with just single strings, which meant two violins, viola, two bass violins and a couple of archlutes and chamber or-

don't go into the sub-stratosphere, the tenors are in the middle of their range, the boys are using the brilliance of their voices rather than having to shove it all out in chest register, and it's the final proof that countertenors were used, because high tenors just couldn't sing up there."

King's obviously deep commitment to Purcell does not mean he suffers from tunnel vision. Following a widely admired disc of Schütz's *Christmas Story*, his group this year will perform and record a 17th century Venetian ceremonial mass.

King is also scheduled to conduct his first opera, Handel's *Ottone*, once in London in November before taking it to Japan. A Handel oratorio, *Judas Macabre*, is to be recorded. He is increasingly tempted away with guest engagements which, if nothing else, provide financial security. "An operation like this in this country does tend to gobble up money. Our London concert, with no sponsorship or Arts Council grant, will drop £8,000, even with a full house. I shall have to pay that myself."

• *The King's Consort* is at the Queen Elizabeth Hall (071-928 3500) on Wednesday at 7.45pm.



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Young, gifted and bewildered

When Fred Tate was one year old he could read newspapers. At four, he wrote poetry. Today he is composing operas for his waitress mother, painting intricate murals in oils, and is fascinated by quantum physics. He is only seven years old but spends sleepless nights worrying about the world, mortality and the decadence of society.

Fred Tate is the central character of *Little Man Tate*, a new film which marks the directing débüt of the actress Jodie Foster (who also plays his mother). Fred, played by Adam Hann-Byrd, is an extraordinarily gifted boy who is isolated from his peers by his intelligence and sensitivity. His teacher thinks he is precocious; his mother adores him but cannot explain to him what an electron is, and no one will come to his birthday parties. The child psychologist seems interested in him only as fodder for her research on geniuses.

To anyone else Fred might seem a freak but to the 20 children watching a preview of the film last Friday, his problems seemed more understandable. The film is being released next week, but the picture company has decided to give previews to selected gifted children, their teachers and parents.

"When the film came out in America people were only interested in it being Jodie Foster's first film," says Jon Anderson, the advertising and publishing director for Columbia Tri-star UK, which is distributing the film in Britain. "The fact it was about the problems of being gifted was almost ignored. We decided to marker the issue."

The company looked at the film *Rain Man*, which came out in 1988, and saw what it did to publicise autism — and vice versa. Autism became a debating point on television, in homes and in newspapers. People wanted to know more about the disability, and because of all the discussion the film got a higher profile. "We thought we would do the same but with gifted children. So we invited these families along to see if the film is representative of gifted children in Britain and bears any relevance to their problems." Mr Anderson says.

According to the National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC), about 2 per cent of the population in Britain are said to be gifted, in that they possess a rare talent, often in a single area such as mathematics or music, and are likely to have an IQ of more than 130 (100 is the average). About one half per cent of the population are multi-talented, like Fred.

Identifying gifted children

Jodie Foster's directing débüt is a film about a child genius. Alice Thomson watches the reactions of gifted British children and their parents at a preview

proved more difficult than the film company first thought. Only two schools in Britain, Cademuir School in Scotland and Newton Prep in Battersea, are devoted exclusively to gifted children, and they will be shown the film when they return to school later this month. The NAGC believes that perhaps no more than half of gifted children are identified, and many parents were unwilling to let their gifted children watch the film in case it made them feel like oddities. Families with gifted children were eventually found by different charities and organisations such as Mensa and the Potential Trust.

Set up to cater for gifted children.

Apart from a preponderance of small round spectacles, the children watching the 99-minute film all appeared utterly normal, rustling sweet papers and squirming on their seats. Occasionally a child would mutter the answer to a maths question (more often wrong than right), but none of them said anything shatteringly perceptive. After the film most of them remained monosyllabic, saying only: "Good."

Peter Newmark-Jones, a nine-year-old who is exceptional at maths as well as being more articulate than most of his peers, says: "I thought it was quite lifelike, because he was naughty as well as clever. I felt sorry for the boy. It is quite hard being clever because people think you are odd and you have few friends of your own age who can talk to you."

Peter's mother, Victoria Newmark-Jones, says: "Peter worries more, he is more perceptive and constantly wants to be stimulated. School is difficult because he gets bored so easily. Every child is expected to keep in line and follow a programme. But I don't want to send him to a special school like Fred in the film, because gifted children should learn to mix with all abilities, so he attends the local primary school. I think the film may help some parents to realise they have a gifted child."

Gifted children now grown up also found the film sympathetic. Sarah Evans, aged 21, was considered gifted as a child and is now a student at Oxford. She teaches at summer camps run by the Potential Trust.

"The film is good because there is still a social stigma attached to children who are very bright. People are frightened of them, and few realise that they have specific problems just like any other minority. They think everything comes effortlessly to the gifted child but it does not. I got badly bullied at school, and it wasn't until I went to the summer camps and met other gifted children that I really began to enjoy myself."

"I thought it was excellent," says Anne Allen, a teacher at a girls' comprehensive. "There were very few stones left unturned. They pointed out the difficulties gifted children have getting friends, the loneliness they suffer, and the problems encountered by the parents.

"If Fred is left in his mixed ability class he could become disruptive, but if he goes to the special school the psychiatrist wants him to attend he may become alienated from real life. That is a problem all parents of gifted children have to worry about."

At a previous screening for a mixed ability group of teenagers, the overall verdict of the film was that it was boring because it didn't contain sex or violence. Billie Branche, an audience researcher for Columbia Tri-star UK, says: "Adults seem to feel that it falls between two categories; it is neither a documentary nor a feature. The film may help people to understand the problems if they bother to see it. But I just don't think it will pull the crowds in like *Rain Man* did."

According to Lyn Keen, the mother of two gifted children and North-West London co-ordinator for NAGC, the film would be unrealistic for a British audience. "In America they have a proper

system of schools and summer camps for the gifted. In Britain gifted children are supposed to muddle along in the education system and are rarely singled out for particular attention," she says. "High ability is often not identified or sufficiently challenged in this country, and children are not reaching their full potential. If the film encourages people to give to charities for the gifted in the government that gifted children need investment, it will have been worthwhile."

Dr Joan Freeman, a trained psychiatrist, is the president of the European Council for High Ability and an honorary lecturer at the University of London Institute. She has been studying gifted children for 20 years, and takes particular offence at the way the child psychiatrist (Dianne Wiest in the film) is portrayed. "She is seen as being devoid of emotions and a gorgon. No parent will want to send their child to be tested now," she says.

She thinks the film is "terrible. It is a sort of Disneyland of what it is like to be a gifted child and totally implausible. The child has apparently never played a piano, but miraculously performs a recital of Mozart. The first time he gets on a horse he can gallop without falling off, and with no tuition he can answer mathematical questions that would baffle a computer."

"This is the image that I set about 25 years ago trying to break. The stereotypical view that gifted children are freaks. Gifted and highly able children come in all shapes and sizes and personalities, and they can be extremely popular and have superb senses of humour. This film will throw the issue back into the Dark Ages. It will give gifted children a very negative self-image."

Dr Freeman has carried out a 15-year study of 200 outstanding pupils for her latest book, *Gifted Children Growing Up* (published by Cassell last September). "Gifted children have to be treated sensitively. The ending of *Little Man Tate* may seem happy but my guess is that the way this child is treated in the film, he could end up disturbed. He has a very low level of emotional reaction, no sense of humour, and far too much pressure on him to succeed."

In the film Fred says: "But all I want is someone to eat lunch with." As parents tucked into sandwiches after the screening, the children all seemed more interested in chasing each other round the film studios than pondering the fate of the world on their own.



Family ties: Adam Hann-Byrd, star of *Little Man Tate*, with his director and co-star, Jodie Foster

How American Indian healing rituals have come to Devon

On the warpath to peace

The locals are bewildered. At the Leaping Salmon in Horridge, Devon, the landlord says: "No one really knows what goes on at Grimstone Manor except that they have people prancing about in the nude. Sometimes the children cycle up there from the village and have a good laugh looking through the bushes."

What the Horridge children are most likely to spy is a white-bearded, apple-cheeked man called Leo Rutherford. He may be naked, but his preference is for a striped cardigan. Mr Rutherford conducts workshops in "the Way of the Shaman" at Grimstone Manor. Describing it as "a journey in symbol, myth and ceremony to the Four Sacred Directions", he uses methods first associated with American Indians. "I suppose shamanism can be called psycho-spiritual healing," he says. "A shaman is the old word for a mystic or medicine man/woman. You are not worshipping a specific deity, but finding your own relationship with the earth."

Mr Rutherford's own relationship with the earth was late in coming. "I was at a public boarding school for ten years, which is enough to make you screwed up for the rest of your life. I was brought up to see the world as something to be conquered."

Formerly the managing director of a manufacturing company in Birkenhead, he learnt about shamanism at the age of 40, when he went to study holistic psychology in San Francisco. He now, at 56, runs the Eagle's Wing Centre for Contemporary Shamanism from his north London home.

His Devon workshops involve a grim-sounding facility called a Sweat Lodge, which resembles a DIY sauna. The idea is to achieve both physical and spiritual cleansing. Led by Mr Rutherford,



Games people play: "interaction" for Celia Wearing at Grimstone

ford, the participants chant and pray in stifling heat and darkness all night, with cooling-off breaks outside.

Most of Mr Rutherford's visitors at the start of the new year were old hands at this. Mike Considine, the head of Brainwave Publishing, had once done a Sweat Lodge with a bona fide American Indian. "We were all in war paint, led by a Red Indian from Peru, with the headdress and everything on. We even did the rain dance outside and shouted warpath songs before going in. You are just meant to really get into your own mind, with all the drumming and chanting to help. If you like saunas, you're OK."

"It's like a communion with natural forces," says Nigel Jackson, a solicitor from London who has done several of Mr Rutherford's Sweat Lodges. "I don't think of it as a religious substitute, but a way of gaining a greater level of consciousness."

According to Mr Rutherford, 98 per cent of the population are less than fully self-aware. "We are overbooked every year," he says. "We get more women than men. Men are more screwed

up. Women are more ready to work with their inner self. However, we do get lots of male computer programmers."

"It's fairly graphic stuff," Keith Seaman, a computer programmer from Ruislip, Middlesex, says. "Shamanism is like a step beyond psychotherapy. You do ceremonies which go beyond the mind and deal with your unconscious fears."

Mr Seaman, a mild-mannered man in a homely-looking sweater, has probably taken the Way of the Shaman a bit further than most. Currently doing a year's course in shamanism, his studies involve not only a whole series of Sweat Lodges, but the Hole in the Ground ceremony, which took place last November. This is not for the faint-hearted. "I was buried underground," he explains, "in a hole 4ft deep." Covered in a plastic sheet, Mr Seaman was meant to lie in his hole from sunset to sunrise, in a ritual designed to reflect his own burial.

Clearly the Indians who devised this were made of sterner stuff than Mr Seaman. "It's like a communion with natural forces," says Nigel Jackson, a solicitor from London who has done several of Mr Rutherford's Sweat Lodges. "I don't think of it as a religious substitute, but a way of gaining a greater level of consciousness."

According to Mr Rutherford,

men, not to mention having an advantage in terms of climate. "You are meant to do it naked, but I took a sleeping bag," he says. "The trouble was that apart from the cold, there was a huge thunderstorm. I didn't actually last the whole night as the hole began to fill up with water. It was, however, an incredibly educational experience. I have let go of this big burden which was the fear of death and I can now get on with my life."

Many women on the course feel liberated from the traditional caring roles normally expected of them. Celia Wearing says shamanism has released her into a totally new life. "I am a totally different person. When I was married, I was a moth around my husband's candle. I had no idea that I had needs or that they were important. Now I only do what needs doing."

Grimstone Manor hosts a variety of New Age-type workshops such as "sexual identity" and "spring celebrations", and the programme advertises a course for professionals in the NHS.

Back in Horridge, the manageress at the Round the Bend Shoppe knows a lot about the goings-on at Grimstone. "You don't always know who they are," she says. "but you suss it straight away when they ask for booze or chocolates — they come and get things they can't get up there. In fact you've just missed two of them, they've cleaned out a whole line of red wine."

Learning how to live shamanistically is not cheap: the Way of the Shaman new year course costs £265 for five days. But Mr Rutherford is convinced it is worth it. "My life is radically different from what it used to be," he says. "American Indian shamanism makes such sense. The world is friendly and beautiful to me now, and I can make what I want of it."

ROSIE MILLARD



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On the road to recovery

John O'Leary
examines the history behind New Zealand's school reading programme

Any doubts there may be about the value of the reading recovery programme favoured by British ministers and the Opposition alike are not shared by the New Zealand government. The scheme's success in its native land since 1984 has made it the sacred cow of an education budget ravaged by cuts.

New Zealand's parlous economic position has put pressure on all public spending at a time when schools are also in the throes of a reorganisation based on British experience. But when the reading recovery scheme suffered unintentionally in the latest round of economies, last July, ministers immediately restored the cut and offered assurances for the future.

The programme, which helps more than 20 per cent of six-year-olds to improve their reading, enjoys huge support among teachers and parents. Professor Marie Clay, the reading expert who developed the techniques at Auckland University, was made a DBE partly on the strength of its success.

Although a New Zealand government-commissioned report by Professor Ted Glynn, of Otago University, casts doubt on the scheme's long-term effectiveness, the political unanimity on reading recovery is as strong in New Zealand as it is now in Britain. Both New Zealand's main parties supported the introduction of reading recovery at successive elections, and neither shows any sign of wavering.

Teachers are so committed to the early intervention involved that a similar safety net is now in place for mathematics. The development of a "maths recovery" scheme has been underway at Waikato University for several years, although the cost has prevented its introduction nationally.

Labour's dispute with the government over the costs of introducing reading recovery in Britain had its echoes a decade ago in



Read all about it: any children who have difficulty with their reading are given daily half-hour sessions for up to 20 weeks

New Zealand. The conservative National Party government eventually implemented the programme after three years of argument in opposition about whether it would prove too expensive, diverting resources from children with other needs.

The success rates achieved in six years of trials were irresistible, however. Drawing on research pioneered in Britain, Professor Clay, a developmental psychologist, had begun work on the project in 1965, observing the teaching of 100 five-year-olds.

With her own diagnostic tests, she identified the six-year-olds who were not grasping the concepts behind reading as those most likely to have problems in future.

Classroom teachers were closely involved in developing a structured programme for specially trained teachers to remedy each child's weakness through personal tuition. By 1979 trials were already yielding impressive results, which have been repeated throughout New Zealand, as well as in Australia and America.

The poorest readers in a class are given daily half-hour sessions for up to 20 weeks, the next

poorest taking their place when the first group has been brought up to the standard required to become independent readers. A variety of methods is used.

Most New Zealand children now have access to reading recovery. Of the 21 per cent of six-year-olds using the programme in 1988, fewer than 1 per cent needed more help after 20 weeks. Most had caught up with their peers after three months.

While Dame Marie, who is to supervise training for the programme at the London Institute of Education, has been anxious to tone down expectations in Britain, she has expressed satisfaction with the scale of success in New Zealand. In *The Early Detection of Reading Difficulties*, published last year, she suggested that reading recovery could eliminate all reading difficulties except those caused by physical handicap. Even dyslexics could benefit.

Although New Zealand did not have a severe illiteracy problem before the scheme was introduced, with other initiatives also in place

on reading the country's literacy level is now high by world standards. The costs have been high, both because of the extra staffing and because each tutor requires a year's training.

Dr Lockwood Smith, the education minister, has been prepared to fulfil a commitment to raise basic educational standards. Dr Griffiths, the senior policy analyst at the education ministry, says: "There has been a definite improvement, even though there are some kids with greater problems needing long-term assistance."

The first wave of pupils to go through the programme reached high school in 1991, and many principals have noticed fewer reading problems.

Ros Noonan, the secretary of the primary teachers' union, sees the programme as a vital part of a wider reading effort, rather than a panacea. "We have a comprehensive, in-depth approach to language learning, covering writing, reading and oral expression. That is one of my fears on reading of the sudden British enthusiasm for it. It has been an effective tool as part of a wider programme here."

Teachers and administrators who have seen reading recovery in operation in Surrey have no doubt that the scheme can raise national literacy standards. The doubts mainly concern the costs associated with a method that is by no means the only one to claim success in raising standards.

Volunteer Reading Helpers, for example, a British charity which will receive £50,000 from the government this year, uses quite different techniques for similar periods of extra tuition. With a shorter period of training and 800 volunteer tutors, the organisation estimates that its method costs less than £75 per child, compared to at least £600 for reading recovery.

Both Labour and the government say that they have examined the alternatives and found that their chosen scheme is the best. Surrey and at least eight London boroughs have reached the same conclusion. The question now is whether it will become nationally adopted. The government will commit itself only to £3 million for a pilot scheme which would cost £400,000 for Surrey alone, while Labour has not put a firm price tag on its promise.

Students help on Chernobyl

FOLLOWING the success of English pupils in undertaking the first survey of the amount of radon in drinking water, school children in the Ukraine will use the same technique to investigate plutonium levels near the Chernobyl power station.

Teachers picked up the idea on a visit to the United States, where it has been successfully introduced in high schools. Barry Hilditch, the headmaster, says: "With this system, parents can check whether homework has been set for a particular group and what projects students are going to be set."

Parent plea

PARENTS have formed an action group to save a Surrey infant school threatened with closure in 1993. The parents claim that children at the 18-year-old St Francis Roman Catholic first school in Woking will suffer because the proposed alternatives are inadequate and will reduce the quality of education rather than improve it.

Surrey county council proposes to transfer the five-to-seven year-olds to St Dunstan's middle school to form an amalgamated primary school. Antony Dunlop, the chairman of the parents' group, says: "St Francis is a purpose-built first school specifically designed for the education of smaller children."

The proposals make no provision for providing equivalent facilities at St Dunstan's, which needs refurbishing of the building to accommodate the same facilities. There is already a backlog of dilapidations at St Dunstan's.

"The proposals make no provision for providing equivalent facilities at St Dunstan's, which needs refurbishing of the building to accommodate the same facilities. There is already a backlog of dilapidations at St Dunstan's."

Russian swap

IN another example of East-West co-operation, Russian managers are to be trained by the business school at Wolverhampton Polytechnic on how to cope with a free market economy. Managers from a Russian agency will attend training courses through 1992. The business school hopes to set up a joint course with the Moscow International Business School next September.

Home help

A HOMEWORK hotline has been introduced at a school in Barnsley, South Yorkshire, to enable parents to check on the amount of work their children have been set. The hotline, thought to be the first in Britain, will open this term at the 480-pupil Royston Com-

prehensive School for a three-month trial.

Teachers picked up the idea on a visit to the United States, where it has been successfully introduced in high schools. Barry Hilditch, the headmaster, says: "With this system, parents can check whether homework has been set for a particular group and what projects students are going to be set."

Fifty Kiev schools will embark on the project next term, under the direction of Denis Henshaw, a Bristol University physicist. Dr Henshaw has developed a plastic strip to record the movement of radioactive particles. Just as the English pupils used the plastic to test for radon gas, the Ukrainian children will use it to monitor plutonium at several locations just outside the Chernobyl exclusion zone.

Each school will bury a piece of the strip in the ground for a week, then retrieve it. Back in the classroom, the pupils will count the number of marks made on the plastic by the plutonium. The results will be forwarded to Bristol for Dr Henshaw to calculate average readings for the whole Chernobyl area.

The pupils of Portway Secondary School, Bristol, who helped collate the radon survey results, will assist Dr Henshaw.

"The pupils of Portway Secondary School, Bristol, who helped collate the radon survey results, will assist Dr Henshaw.

PROFESSOR Juliet Butler is in the politics department of Hull University, not the European studies department, as reported in Education Times on December 9.

Book now

SCHOOLS and colleges will be able to apply for a share of £6 million provided by the employment department to enhance careers libraries. The funding coincides with the release of government careers information guidelines. Careers education has been criticised by several ministers.

Michael Howard, the employment secretary, says the new money will enable schools and colleges to update careers libraries to include technology-based sources of information.

DAVID TYTLER

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Further particulars can be obtained only by writing to The Master's Secretary, Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge CB2 1TA, to whom completed applications should be sent by 10 February 1992.

A few years ago I made a mental note not to forget that at some point I wanted to be a textile designer and to speak fluent French. I reluctantly acknowledged that this would mean a return to education.

So, at the age of 23, I reintroduced myself gently by completing a year of evening classes in textile design at Chelsea School of Art in London. That did it, and soon I found myself winning a full-time place at the Polytechnic of East London to study a combined BA honours degree in textile design and French. I was terrified.

Accepting the place meant giving up all notions of comfort, security and income. The secretarial job that I had held for more than four years had to go, travel and shopping at Harvey Nichols had to cease and cheaper, rented accommodation had to be found.

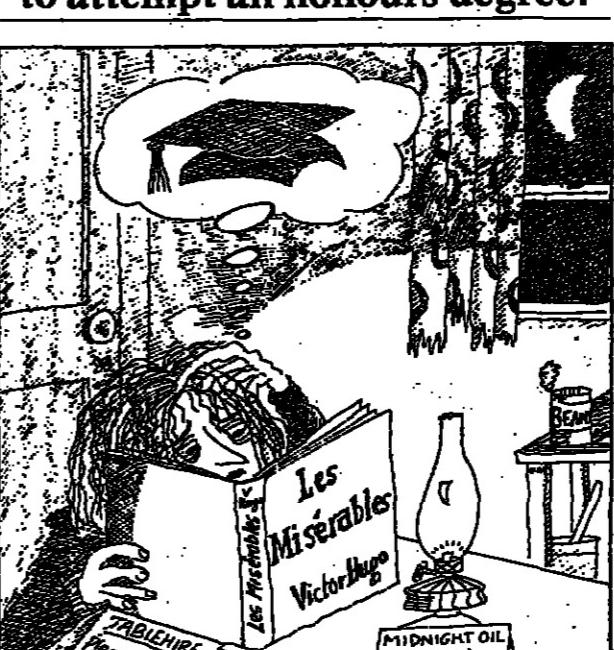
The course became a kind of investment, and expectations were high. Two months into the course, the promised grant cheque from Lewisham Education Authority still had not arrived, the polytechnic was unprepared, to do anything to help, and I wanted to leave.

The poly deliberately refrains from pressuring students in the first term to avoid adding to difficulties that younger students, having just left the comforts of home, may be experiencing. This is very understanding, but it tends to encourage laziness in many students, including myself, which can create problems later.

Attendance was required on only two days a week and hardly any work was set. Having spent the past four years in a fairly hectic job, I was nonplussed by the vast amount of spare time I had on my hands and depressed at having no income. If the manager at Lloyds bank had not agreed to pay my rent for the first term, I would have had no option but to drop out.

One of the advantages of being a mature student is that banks tend to be more tolerant and are prepared to help

What happens when a woman aged 23 gives up a full-time job to attempt an honours degree?



if they are told when money is due and are kept regularly informed of personal financial situations. They are generally prepared to increase an overdraft. Credit card companies, however, are less understanding and regularly threaten to sue.

The grant cheque finally arrived during the last week of the first term. The council said the money might have reached me sooner if most of its education staff had not been transferred to the poll tax department.

At the poly, there was the danger of falling between two camps: on the one side, young students straight from their foundation year; on the other, mature students, often with children and divorces behind them.

I had failed to realise beforehand that education is anything but a passive activity. Students are not taught as much as they have to learn.

Lecturers seem to spend more time completing vast administrative tasks or appealing for better facilities and money than they do in the classroom. Classes are sometimes cancelled at short notice and internal communications do not always work well. The culture shock led to a little confusion.

On my course, new ideas and information were constantly being introduced but little guidance was given on how to proceed. Motivation and self-discipline are without a doubt the most important attitudes if a journey through higher education is to be successful, and the latter has never come easily to me. It was a case of making lists and rota, which never lasted more than a fortnight, although a routine did fall into place with work required for the next day being done at three in the morning.

I have learnt not to want new clothes and holidays, but books, tubes of paint and the odd meal.

Now, almost half-way through the second year and with financial hardship increasing, attendance sometimes has to be sacrificed for paid employment.

Still slightly dazed from the experience of the first year, I am taking control again.

CLARE COX

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ST.

Touch of class for teachers

Plans to train teachers on the job should be welcomed, says Sheila Lawlor

Teacher training in the future will take place mainly in the classroom, a move that can only make our schools better. Announcing the plans at the weekend, Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, said that young teachers will be sent to schools to learn from senior teachers who have dedicated a lifetime to the art of imparting knowledge.

The change from too much theory to concentrated practice will have important effects. New teachers will be better prepared for their task. Instead of being removed to the training institutions, they will start their professional life by being part of the working profession.

Instead of being expected to absorb and put into practice the general theories favoured by educationists, they will find themselves in front of pupils, and learn to recognise that each class and each pupil is different and that methods of teaching cannot be learnt by formula, but have to be developed to meet the circumstances of the individual classroom. There is also every chance that more able subject specialists will be attracted to teaching as a career now they can start on the job.

Mr Clarke's critics might say his measures are too drastic if education departments in colleges, polytechnics and universities are not preparing tomorrow's teachers for their job, is it not more sensible to ensure that they change their courses rather than reduce their role?

Such reforms have already been tried by Mr Clarke's predecessors. They failed. By the 1980s, the teacher training colleges, as they used to be called, had a bad name. Both the postgraduate courses and the four-year bachelor of education course intended



Training on the job: a student teacher takes a lesson under the watchful eye of two experienced trainers

primarily for school leavers were thought to provide inadequate training. Too much theory, not enough practice and too little common sense were the charges.

It was also alleged that some training colleges were centres for political indoctrination. Sir Keith Joseph, when education secretary, introduced measures to put more emphasis on subject teaching and classroom work, and to transform the theory into something more professional, more useful for teaching pupils.

Those reforms may have led to some changes in the broad division of courses and the allocation of time, but the heart of the problem remained. Training was in the hands of those whose livelihood rested on the propagation of some educational theory.

These people are neither masters of a given subject such as mathematics or history, nor practising teachers, watching pupils' successes, overcoming their failures, pulling them through. As a result, although the letter of the reforms may have been carried out, the spirit was lost.

'It will bring teaching into line with other professions, such as the law and medicine'

variety of theories. Even classroom practice was made to provide a chance to put theory into practice. Despite Sir Keith's best intentions, teacher training became neither more professional nor more genuinely practical.

Some argue that the status

of teachers will fail if their training takes place mainly in the classroom. On the contrary, this will bring teaching into line with other professions, such as the law and medicine. Prospective doctors and lawyers master the academic content of their subjects to degree level and then train on the job.

Junior doctors are trained in hospital wards by practising doctors, not by those who theorise about how doctors should care people. Similarly with lawyers. The new proposals for teacher training will mean that teachers are trained by teachers active and experienced in their own professions, not by theorists.

Mr Clarke still faces difficulties in putting his plans into effect. His proposal is not which schools will do the training but over allocation of responsibility and public funding. He recognises that not every school in the country would be a suitable training ground for every young teacher, so special training schools will be chosen on top of normal salary.

• The author is the deputy director of the Centre for Policy Studies

Leading article, Page 17

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Triumph of respectability

Peter Riddell identifies a political breed that has carried all before it

RIDDELL
ON MONDAY

Politicians have always been classified into groups — court or country, left or right — but events and people change so quickly that the labels can soon lose their meaning. "Wet" and "dry" were accurate indicators of the views of Tory MPs for a couple of years at most in the early 1980s. Over Christmas, however, I came across a vividly suggestive new label, the Respectable Tendency, that is widely applicable in the history of the Conservative party. What better description, for instance, could you want for John Major, Douglas Hurd and the present cabinet?

The term appears in Andrew Roberts's engrossing biography of Lord Halifax, *The Holy Fox* (published by Weidenfeld & Nicolson). He uses it to describe those, including Halifax and Baldwin, who dominated British politics from October 1922, when they ended the Lloyd George coalition at the famous Carlton Club meeting, until May 1940 and the Norway debate that brought Churchill to power. The Carlton Club revolt of Tory MPs represented the rejection of the giants of British politics, Churchill, Birkenhead, Lloyd George, Balfour and Austen Chamberlain, by the heart of the party. Baldwin attacked Lloyd George as "a dynamic force", which is "a very terrible thing". The vote was, as Mr Roberts argues, "seen as the triumph of Respectability over waywardness and piracy: the victory of the bishops over the bookies". The distinction has little to do with social origins or standing. It essentially reflects an attitude to politics, a desire for consensus and continuity over confrontation and change.

The "bishops" governed Britain for almost the whole of the following 18 years, viewing Churchill and Lloyd George with almost equal suspicion. But Halifax recognised that — in this century — Respectable methods would not win wars. So he did not press his claims to become prime minister in 1940, though he was favoured by a wide spectrum from the King to many Labour leaders. It is hard now to recapture the widespread hostility then to the arrival of Churchill. Tory MPs gave him a cool reception in shock at the departure of Neville Chamberlain. A friend of Baldwin noted, "the crooks are on top, as they were in the last war — we must keep our powder dry". Contemplating the new influence of Beaverbrook and Bracken, Halifax complained, "the gangsters will shortly be in complete control". Lord Hankey saw the only hope "in the solid core of Churchill, Chamberlain and Halifax, but whether the wise old elephants will ever be able to hold the Rogue Elephant, I doubt". Within six months, Chamberlain was dead and soon afterwards Halifax was exiled to Washington.

Just as the Respectable Tendency dominated British politics in the 1920s and 1930s, the

'Whoever wins the next election, the Respectable Tendency will be in power'

"bookies and the gangsters" ruled the Tory party from then until 1963. Macmillan liked to appear a bookee, even if he had a strong streak of the bishop in his personality. His determination to stop Butler succeeded him originated in their differences over appeasement in the 1930s. Though Macmillan's preferred candidates, Lord Hailsham and Lord Home, had publicly supported appeasement like Butler, they had successfully shed its association.

The old dividing lines took on new forms with the election to the leadership of Edward Heath, the epitome of the bishop in politics.

The revolt against Mr Heath in February 1975, the peasants' revolt as it has been called, was, like May 1940, at heart a rejection of the Respectable Tendency after too many failures. Margaret Thatcher and her allies were initially regarded by many of the existing leadership with almost as much hostility as Churchill was in

1940. Mrs Thatcher challenged the establishment as much as Lloyd George and Churchill had done. And several of her close allies, Nigel Lawson, Norman Tebbit, Cecil Parkinson, Nicholas Ridley and Lord Young, had the buccaneering character of many of Churchill's associates. They were the pirates of Thatcherism, shocking trade union and nationalised in-

dustry bosses equally.

These distinctions should not be applied too rigidly since Sir Geoffrey Howe personifies the Respectable Tendency if anyone does. Appropriately, it was the final snapping of his long-suffering patience with Mrs Thatcher that precipitated her downfall. The direct challenge to her on the first ballot came, of course, from someone distrusted by the Respectable, Michael Heseltine, a piratical adventurer who counts Lloyd George among his heroes. But the beneficiary was John Major, the voice of Respectability and consensus.

The buccaneers' heyday have all gone. Lord Halifax would have felt comfortable with the Major administration and with the long-suffering good sense of Mr Heseltine.

Not only on the Tory benches is the Respectable Tendency in the ascendant. Labour also presents a face of Respectability, as it has for most of its history. There have been exceptions — Lansbury, Bevan, Crossman, Tony Benn — but the real power has been held by the Respectable. When Neil Kinnock refused to back Mr Benn in the Labour deputy leadership contest of 1981 he joined the ranks of the Respectable and himself became a leadership contender. Whoever wins the next election, the Respectable Tendency will be in power.

...and moreover

MATTHEW PARRIS

Returning from Spain to Britain last week, I found myself at Barcelona airport checking in for a flight to Birmingham, laden with gifts. Heavy gifts, so heavy that my baggage exceeded the 20 kilo limit.

"You're overweight," said the lady.

I blustered: "I could carry some clothes over my arm..."

"Just fill a plastic bag and take that as hand luggage." So I did. No sweat. Except that behind me in the queue was a woman who must have weighed 17 stone if she weighed an ounce. And I, weighing 9 stone, was "overweight". She waddled, panting, to the desk and thumped her suitcase — stuffed, no doubt, with boxes of chocolates and tasty delicacies — on to the scales.

Why wasn't she ordered to climb on too? Without fuel people we could get to Birmingham with less fuel, more passengers, cheaper tickets, or extra baggage.

"Smoking or non-smoking, madam?" Her decision would condemn to misery the passenger whose adjacent seat parts of her would overhang. Not content with driving up thin people's fares, she would jog our elbows and knock our shoulders, too, as she passed down the gangway.

This was monstrous. If I send books to Birmingham I pay by weight. If I send myself to Birmingham — well, a person's a person, never mind the size. But imagine saying to the post-

Do it, it's time

Nigel Hawkes on the dilemma genetic scientists pose for the insurance industry

Expensive genes

In reality, the genes predisposing to common diseases may be so many, and may interact with one another and with the environment in such a complex way, that it will never be possible to draw any very clear conclusions from them. In that case, the dilemma will not arise in an acute form.

To depend on that, however, would be foolish. In America there have already been instances in which people have declined genetic tests that might have helped them or their children, because of the fear that the results would make them uninsurable. By making genetic information uniquely privileged, the California legislation has sought to dispel the fear and ensure that the benefits of the genome project in improved diagnosis and cure of genetic conditions can be realised.

Some similar legislation may be necessary in Britain. Squaring the individual's rights to privacy with the long-established principle of free disclosure appears at first sight an impossible task, but if a compromise has to be struck here is no doubt where the balance should lie in favour of the individual.

Some time soon, Britain will have to come to grips with a dilemma created by the success of science. The more we learn about the genetic basis of disease, the harder it is going to be to sustain a free market in insurance.

Last year, the state legislature of California pointed the way by passing a bill to ban the use of genetic information to discriminate between people buying health insurance. This bill defined a class of information which the individual may legitimately conceal from an insurance company.

The bill reflected a mounting panic in America about the implications of the human genome project. As genetic knowledge advances, researchers are uncovering the bases of a growing number of diseases. So far, only sufferers from relatively rare genetic conditions, such as Huntington's Chorea, can be told their fate before the symptoms begin to appear, but soon others may discover that their genes predispose them to die from heart disease or cancer.

Insurance thrives on uncertainty. Given a sufficiently large population, actuaries can predict how

many will die young and how many will live to draw their pensions, but it has never been possible to pinpoint individuals. The premiums of Methuselas subsidise the dependants of those who die before their biblical three score and ten.

The human genome project threatens, some fear, to undermine the whole system. The difficulty is particularly acute in the US, where health insurance is essential if people are to survive serious illness with some capital intact. The National Health Service reduces the pressures in Britain, but the life assurance and annuity markets seem certain to be affected by the new knowledge.

Within the not too distant future, the Association of British Insurers expects that there will be genetic tests available, costing less than £5 a time, that may pinpoint the risk for individuals of dying from common conditions.

The California bill placed an

eight-year ban on the use of such information by insurance companies, effectively allowing people to take the tests and then keep the results to themselves. Similar arguments are being heard in Britain. Professor Bob Williamson, a geneticist from St Mary's Hospital Medical School in London, draws a distinction between information over which people have no control — their genes — and factors such as smoking or taking part in dangerous sports, which are matters of choice. He has called for legislation to guarantee that the "form is not used to discriminate between individuals".

The insurance companies view matters differently. They foresee those who know they are likely to die young taking out huge life insurance policies, and those who are told they will live to 95 getting a particularly good deal on the annuity market. In either case, the Association of British Insurers says, people will be cheating the

The heart has its reasons

Bernard Levin celebrates the collapse of a medical myth

I has long been obvious to me that if we were to seek a single safe and inexpensive panacea for the improvement of the entire population's well-being, it would be the immediate closing down of the Health Education Authority.

This body, which is in danger of terminal indigestion from the quantity of our money it has swallowed, must by now have frightened to death so many people that it is no wonder that the population is falling. Well, would you want to live much less bring children into the world, if you were daily assured by the HEA that your only chance of survival, and that a slight one, was to change immediately to an exclusive diet of pasteurised muesli washed down with turnip juice?

The HEA and its food-wowsering allies (that reminds me — Mr Geoffrey Cannon has been commendably silent for some time. Bacchus be praised) have lately had a nasty experience. In Helsinki, a huge survey — the subjects were studied over a period of 15 years — was set up with 1,200 men all of whom had lifestyles that would have stretched the members of the HEA unconscious on the carpet if they had got to hear of the matter.

These death-invaders smoked, they drank, they were overweight, they had high blood pressure, they positively oozed cholesterol. When collected, they were divided into two equal groups. One half were monitored in the greatest detail throughout the 15-year study, and were put on strict diets and regimens, the very things the HEA would approve of, or rather insist upon. The other half of the Finnish guinea-pigs were left to their ruinous ways, being given no warnings or threats: they were simply thought of as the control group, and left blissfully alone.

Five years passed, during which half of the 1,200 had continued to tread the primrose path to the everlasting bonfire, while the other half had — well, let me quote directly from *The Sunday Times*:

Researchers were surprised to discover that within five years the death rate was twice as high among those who repeatedly cut down on calories, saturated fats, cholesterol, alcohol and sugar. The group was

also told to eat more polyunsaturated fats (mainly soft margarine, fish, chicken, veal and vegetables, and to cut down on smoking and exercise more).

After 15 years, the "healthier" low-cholesterol sample continued to die more rapidly, 67 deaths in all, 34 of them due to heart disease.

The control group, whose risk of heart attacks was theoretically higher, had only 14 cardiac deaths and 32 deaths from other causes.

None of this surprises me in the least. For as long as I can remember, I have started my breakfast with a steaming jug of cholesterol: my lunch consists of three or four saturated-fat sandwiches, and my usual dinner is a substantial plate of calories (with melted butter). As for drink (this bit's true) it is a poor day — a wretched one, even — when no champagne, pleasantly cool, slides over my tonsils. Of course, I am not such a fool as to take exercise, and my only worry in these

matters is that I don't smoke — not because I think it unhealthy, but because I dislike the taste. (I propose, instead, a course of nicotine injections.)

Yes, yes, Levin must have his fun. But he must also have his seriousness and this is it, coming up.

Your silence is eloquent; were you compelled to answer all those questions you would say "No" to every one. Very well: I must teach my grandmother to suck eggs.

In matters of health (body or mind), in matters of comfort, of familiarity, of habit, of companionship (even if the companion is a cat), of regularity, of satisfaction, of surroundings, of everything and anything which goes on indefinitely in its usual way if left alone, while we are quite contented that it should go on indefinitely in its usual way if left alone — of all these things and all things like them, we hold these truths to be self-evident, that nothing that is experienced

of your bullying, your scaries, your self-righteousness, your belief that you may, or indeed must, shove your noses into the dietary and other habits of perfect strangers?

Has not a single one of you ever heard of Marie Lloyd? When the man who invented jogging dropped dead while doing it, was there nothing in your minds other than sympathy for his family?

Your silence is eloquent; were you compelled to answer all those questions you would say "No" to every one. Very well: I must teach my grandmother to suck eggs.

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as hateful can be doing the experimenter any good.

Of course the "reformed" Helsinki subjects died sooner than did the slobs. But that had nothing to do with the diet and the rest of the measures that were supposed to make the poor devils live for ever: the clinching clue was the apparently inexplicable finding that in the ranks of the born-again fitness-freaks there was a tendency for them to go off their heads and end their lives in violence. The pattern of their lives had been disturbed, whence these significant blips on the actuaries' charts.

H abit is one of the most powerful forces in mankind, and there is no culture that dispenses with it, or tries to, without experiencing seriously negative consequences. I come back to my discovery, some years ago, about jogging: I was in Los Angeles, where the joggers are numerous as the grains of sand on the seashore. As each one went by, I could see — I was on the edge of the jogging-path, not more than a foot or two away from them — that every one of them had a face contorted in anger and disgust. No, it was not the grimace that accompanies great effort, it was self-hatred. Believe me; when I realised the meaning of those faces, I should also have realised that I could have saved a lot of Finnish doctors 15 years of selfless labour, merely by gathering them round me, standing them doublets of whatever sensible people like to drink in Finland, and explaining.

Leave well alone. The food-wowsering will tell you that a bad diet is bad for you, and so it is. But they define bad as disregarding the rules they have themselves drawn up. The real bad diet is one which makes the eater of it first disquieted, then unhappy, then angry. You do not have to be a doctor to know that disquiet, unhappiness and anger are not good for the heart. Measure those indicators, gentlemen, not the intake of cholesterol and polyunsaturated fat, and base your conclusions on what they tell you. Meanwhile, if you seek a place where they now know that a little out of what you fancy does you good, try Helsinki, and explaining.

As supermarket shelves in the former Soviet Union continue to empty, the humble rabbit has become a delicacy. The creatures have a street value of 100 roubles — nearly a quarter of the average monthly salary. So highly are they prized, it seems, that zoos throughout the republics are keeping a careful eye on their hutchies after the theft of eight bunnies, destined for the black market, from Karkov in Ukraine.

Bombing out
SCIENTISTS in unified Germany have shunned an award in memory of Klaus Fuchs, who deeply compromised the British government by giving atomic secrets to the Russians.

Fuchs, who died in 1988, was a committed communist before fleeing Nazi Germany in 1933, but rose through the ranks to become deputy scientific director at Harwell atomic research centre.

After his death his widow set up the Klaus Fuchs Physics Prize at the Royal Society of Arts. The award is given annually to a scientist under 35 who has made a significant contribution to physics. The first prize was awarded in 1989 to Dr David Jones, a theoretical physicist at the University of Cambridge.

Pas de deux
THE quality of the Royal Ballet's production of *The Nutcracker* is not the only talking point in the interval at Covent Garden. Tucked away in the small print of the glossy programme is the name of the main sponsors of the production, first put on in 1984: Gerald Ronson and Robert Maxwell.

In those days Covent Garden was delighted to be associated with Ronson, boss of the Heron Group, and Maxwell, head of the British Printing and Communications Corporation.

That was before the men were discovered to be less than paragons in their business practices. The tycoons were regulars on the corporate opera and ballet circuit. Many ballet lovers are wondering whether it might be time for the pair to make an exit from the programme — stage left.



DIARY

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It only remains to be seen whether Scargill will swallow his considerable pride and accept a life of provincial obscurity.

While many in the transport union had hoped that this calculated snub would force Scargill to resign, they must now be wondering whether the plan has backfired.

Black gold
THE proposed marriage between the National Union of Mineworkers and the Transport and General Workers' Union may remove Arthur Scargill from the limelight. But it will not leave him out of pocket.

King Arthur, as he is affectionately known within the in-



the Academie der DDR. But since unification it has become the Deutsche Academie, and the governing body has refused to have anything to do with a prize



WEST MEETS EAST

President Bush arrives in Japan tomorrow for what is expected to be the most difficult leg of an Asian tour that is already proving embarrassingly controversial. His reception in Tokyo will certainly be plainer than it was in Australia, as courtesy is a hallmark of his hosts. But the froideur will be deeper, the underlying issues more intractable and the potential for misunderstanding far greater. Far from resolving the growing tensions, the visit may contribute to them.

The basic for Mr Bush's tour is misconceived. With his popularity plummeting at home and a public perception that he was spending too much time on foreign policy at the expense of domestic ills, he abruptly cancelled his long planned tour and then rescheduled it with a different agenda. Instead of focusing on the changing needs for Pacific security, world trade and the collapse of the Soviet Union, he gathered around him his most hawkish trade officials, invited along prominent American businessmen and set off for a vote-catching display of temper over America's growing deficit with its Pacific trade partners.

The Japanese are aghast at being treated so cavalierly. The new prime minister, Kiichi Miyazawa, looking for the traditional endorsement by Washington on assuming office, was embarrassed. The snubs from the White House have done little to create a cordial atmosphere in advance.

Mr Bush's main concern is that America's perennial trade deficit with Japan, estimated in 1991 to be running at \$41 billion, is again rising. Cars account for some 75 per cent of this deficit, and Detroit, already reeling from the recession is looking to the White House for a quick fix. The Americans are pressing Japan to import not only more cars but more car parts. It is a fairly futile campaign. The main reason why Americans prefer Japanese cars is because they are better — the same reason why Japanese buy American. Trade barriers hardly feature any more. Mr Bush and Mr Moebacher, the commerce secretary, have also made it a point of principle that Japan open its rice market.

The principle is politically important in the current tense GATT trade talks, but likely to

yield a lesser victory than many American farmers may be expecting. The main beneficiaries of any market opening, now reluctantly conceded by Mr Miyazawa, are likely to be Japan's Asian neighbours.

Haggling about trade may do Mr Bush some good in the polls, but such a public squabble with an ally is likely to be counterproductive on other fronts. The Americans want Tokyo to play a wider role on the world stage. So far, the Japanese response has appeared to the world higgidy and gaggidy. Japan's foreign ministry knows the need for the country to demonstrate political responsibility commensurate with economic might; the public and the political establishment see no such obligation. As such, the public mood is essentially isolationist, there is little the world can do.

Nevertheless the Japanese are still easily bruised by tough words from the Americans. Ever since the second world war Japanese policy has been fixated on the United States. Politicians have always looked to Washington for approval. Japan has relied on America to protect it against a hostile Soviet Union. Japanese society is still disproportionately influenced by American society and way of life. Now that the Soviet Union has collapsed and with it any serious military threat, it would be healthy if Japan began to pay more attention to the views of others, especially its Asian neighbours and European trading partners.

The narrowness of the political establishment's focus is unhealthy for both Japan and America. It allows Japan to take American political support for granted, perpetuating an almost pro-consular insensitivity in Washington. It also builds resentment in Japan, at not having its special relationship reciprocated.

Both sides now need a fundamental reassessment of their mutual relations, which must go far beyond bilateral trade arrangements. Mr Bush well understands this need. It is a pity that he has allowed election jitters to change what should have been broad-ranging and thoughtful talks into a public spat that may only make that reassessment more difficult.

BACK TO THE BLACKBOARD

An ideology is on the march in education. A politically-minded minority is determinedly imposing its dogmas about teaching method and classroom organisation, irrespective of the true views of parents, pupils and teachers. But, pace Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, that minority is not the liberal intelligentsia of the education establishment, whom he is trying so hard to challenge. He and his phalanx of unofficial advisers are the dogmatists, and they threaten to undo the many necessary changes which are underway in education.

When Mrs Thatcher began her crusade against trendy education in the early 1980s, she was tackling real problems. Standards were being neglected. Informal learning techniques had got out of control. Parents' views were given too little weight; the interests of professional teachers too much. Excessive emphasis was being put on the peripheries of education, for example anti-racism, and its central purpose was sometimes neglected. All this is now conceded not least by the Labour party, which has embraced standards and parent power with the zeal of the convert.

Yet Mr Clarke continues to tilt at windmills. His speech to the Northern Education Conference over the weekend is spattered with references designed to ingratiate himself with teachers whose dedication he praises. But he somehow manages to imply that these same teachers are being manipulated by enemy forces. The enemies, this time, are not the local education authorities, but the teacher training colleges and universities. To liberate the profession from their grip, he proposes increasing the amount of training time which teachers spend in the classroom to 80 per cent of the total.

The suggestion is not new. Politically neutral educationists, led by Baroness

Wainock, have long advocated teaching schools, based on an analogy with medical schools. Mr Clarke's own inspectors favour an extension of school-based teacher training.

Somewhat ingeniously, but Mr Clarke does not begin to get to grips with the practicalities. He fails properly to weigh the inspectors' caveat: "simply providing more time in school is not enough." He advocates a "more equal partnership" between school teachers and tutors in institutions, but he does not explain how teachers are properly to be prepared for their new duties, nor how he intends to explain to parents that the best teachers are to be diverted from their essential task of teaching children. The new money to be made available to launch the scheme, £3 million, is exiguous.

His proposals have also to be set in context. Last week, he decided to ignore teacher protest at his decision to reduce the coursework content of exams. He increasingly anathematises project-based education, which is the source of much that is best in schools. He has failed adequately to simplify seven-year-old tests.

Mr Clarke presents himself as a traditionalist, bringing old-fashioned common sense to education. But there is a quite separate, though equally Tory, tradition in these matters. Questioning the wisdom of Whitehall, it is suspicious of national blueprints. It would rather have and win an argument than impose a solution. It appreciates the need for diversity, so that different approaches can be tried and evaluated. It gives great weight to local education authorities, as the providers of education in their areas. Change, when brought about in this way, may be less rapid. But it lasts longer, and it is reform that sticks, rather than reform tossed hither and thither on the political breezes, that education most needs.

UNBENDING BISHOPS

Second to Shakespeare as the English writer most cited in the Oxford Dictionary of Quotations is Thomas Cranmer, author of the bulk of the Book of Common Prayer. The 1662 prayer book courses through the veins of English culture, and its replacement in many churches with the Alternative Service Book has caused anguish, most publicly amongst royalty. The Bishop of Bristol, the Rt Rev Barry Rogerson, is the latest to criticise the "liturgical anarchy" in the Church of England, which, he claims, puts the cohesion of the Church at risk.

Should the Church of England be worried about the fragmentation of its liturgy? A characteristic of the established church is that it is hard to define, for it embraces so many different traditions. When the 1662 prayer book was used in all services, unity could be expressed by common worship, whatever the high or low-church inclinations of different congregations. But in the 20th century, many in the Church have fretted that the archaic language of the 1662 book excluded Christians from church attendance. In 1928, Parliament blocked the introduction of a new prayer book, and it was not until 1980 that an Alternative Service Book was authorised.

As soon as the spell of uniformity was broken, forms of worship started to fragment. There is now such a proliferation that Anglicanism cannot really be said to have a common worship. In one church, traditional language is joined by the soleran music of Palestrina. In another, colloquialisms rule,

and gospel songs are accompanied by guitars, tambourines and handclapping.

But does this matter? The Church of England is still one church in its diocesan structure and institutions. The same system of law applies throughout and members are represented at the General Synod. Senior churchmen may wring their hands at the diversity of forms of worship in individual churches. But most important is to ask whether or not life in the parishes is healthy.

Individual churchgoers are, in the main, not exercised by the variation in liturgy. Quite the contrary. In towns and cities at least such diversity gives them more choice. Increasingly, urban churches are tending to serve not just their own parishioners, but everyone in the area who likes their type of worship. So evangelical Christians, for instance, can now drive across town to attend the service that appeals to them.

This liturgical "anarchy", then, may be the best way of maintaining levels of church attendance. As in many other forms of life, the English have become more discriminating. Bishops should welcome the growing self-assertion of their parishioners, not try to stamp a Stalinist uniformity on them. As ever, there is an apposite quotation from the 1662 prayer book: "It hath been the wisdom of the Church of England, ever since the first compiling of her Publick Liturgy, to keep the mean between the two extremes, of too much stiffness in refusing, and of too much easiness in admitting any variation from it." Bishops, beware stiffness.

Belgrano sinking and the fog of war

From Mr Tam Dalyell, MP for Linlithgow (Labour)

Sir, In his interesting article, "The war that almost wasn't fought" (January 1), William Greaves quotes the captain of the Belgrano as saying: "War is war. You expect to be attacked. What did surprise us was that the British did nothing when we were a threat, but attacked when we had been heading away from the task force for several hours."

Precisely. War is war. And had the Belgrano been sunk while she was a threat, there would have been no complaint or questions from me.

Questions began to arise when the commander of HMS Conqueror made statements on his return which support what Captain Bonzo now says, and at significant variance with what the House of Commons was told at the time.

For example, specifically, in *Our Falklands War*, where the men of the task force tell their own story, edited by Geoffrey Underwood and introduced by Major-General Sir Jeremy Moore, the then Commander Christopher Wreford-Brown stated: "We were tasked to look for and find the General Belgrano group. It was reported to consist of the cruiser and escorts. We located her on our passive sonar and sighted her visually early on the afternoon of May 1. We took up a position astern and followed the General Belgrano for over 30 hours. We reported that we were in contact with her."

The House of Commons was told by Sir John Nott, then defence secretary, on May 4, 1982 (Han-

sard, column 30) that the Belgrano and two destroyers "were closing on elements of our task force".

In the fog of war, mistakes can be made. What needs to be explained is why ministers did not put the record straight after the war.

The answer, I believe, concerns knowledge of the peace proposals. For legal reasons may I quote myself in Hansard (February 18, 1985, column 772) during the major Commons debate on the Belgrano: "The Argentine soldiers were to leave the Falkland Islands and the task force was to turn back. In that case the prime minister would have been deprived of her military victory, which the Falkland issue is all about, as I made plain at an early stage."

Yours etc,
TAM DALYELL,
House of Commons.
January 2.

From Captain P. R. D. Kimm, RN (read)

Sir, I missed one name in William Greaves's article on Hugh Scully's forthcoming TV series on the Falklands war, and one face among the photographs.

Let us hope the series will give credit where the article did not — to Admiral of the Fleet Lord Field-Marshal, the victorious tri-service Commander-in-Chief.

Yours faithfully,
PETER KIMM,
69 New Brighton Road,
Emsworth, Hampshire.
January 1.

whilst watching it get worse. At least, the effort would have been made — and, incidentally, would be much more likely to win votes than lose them.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN KING HAMILTON,
Royal Air Force Club,
128 Piccadilly, W1.
January 2.

From Mr Michael J. Gordon

Sir, In your leading article, "Trusting to confidence" (January 1), you refer to raising interest rates to protect the pound as "clearly against the interests of the British economy". The corollary, presumably, is that to lower interest rates would be to help our economy.

Certainly the US and Japanese governments seem to think that is the way out of their respective recessions. Is there any good reason why it should not also happen here?

The usual argument against so doing is that it would lead to an increase in inflation. I respectfully submit that the greatest cause of inflation is the extravagant use of credit cards. If the government were to place an annual ceiling on the use of all credit cards, I venture to think it would have a greater effect on lowering inflation than anything else.

Doubtless the banks, the big stores and the public would object to such a course, but the combined effect of a lowering of the interest rate and a ceiling on the use of credit cards would result in more money being available for paying mortgage interest, fewer house repossessions, more investment in industry, fewer businesses collapsing and a much needed boost to morale.

The advantages of this action to the electorate would far outweigh the stigma attached to realignment of sterling. We should at long last be correcting the error made when we entered the ERM at the wrong level and at the wrong time.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL J. GORDON,
Rissington Mill, Little Rissington,
Gloucestershire.
December 31.

Business letters, page 23

Latin and eating

From Mr P. N. Poole-Wilson

Sir, Today's affection for Kennedy's *Latin Primer* (letters, December 27, January 3) is in marked contrast to the abuse it received in your correspondence column when it first appeared in 1866. Between August 29 and November 9, 1866, you printed 27 letters devoted to it, occupying over 200 column inches. Most were letters of condemnation.

I would teach grammar to children besides language, just as I would teach them geometry besides drawing, and algebra besides arithmetic... Grammar, like geometry, has its "Asses' Bridge", but the value of a science is to be found, not in those who either cannot or will not, but in those who can and do attain it.

Yours faithfully,
P. N. POOLE-WILSON,
Bernard Quaritch Ltd.,
5-8 Lower John Street,
Golden Square, W1.

From Mrs Nonie Insall

Sir, In the early Sixties, when I was studying A-level Latin at Malvern College, I was taught by a Mr Kennedy, otherwise known as Chris K. We found it hard to accept his repeated disclaimers to authorship of our "Revised Latin Primers": we knew that he had written many other Latin text books. He told us he was too young. We didn't believe him. After all, the first edition had been produced in 1866, and this would have made him almost 100 years old. He seemed at least that...

His idiosyncratic approach to the teaching of Latin required us to play dice against him each time we overlooked translations of individual words at the end of translation passages. On losing, we would hand over 6d. At the end of term, with his amassed fortune, he would take us out for cream teas.

Yours faithfully,
NONIE INSALL,
Barrowgate, Mark Way,
Godalming, Surrey.

Honours uneven

From Mr Brian Fizelle

Sir, Your third leader's trenchant pronouncements on the honours system ("Honours uneven", December 31) are not given weight by statements such as: "All other countries of the world, apart from a few happy islands in the South Seas, have an honours system of sorts."

There is a member of the European Community that has no honours system, gets along quite well without one, and is a little nearer to this island than the South Seas: the Republic of Ireland.

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN FITZELLE,
PO Box 1040, Bath BA1 3TJ.
January 2.

From Mr John Stockill

Sir, What do you think Liz McColgan (MBE), Ian Woosnam (MBE) and Roger Black (MBE) would have to say to Gary Lineker (OBE), Will Carling (OBE) and Major Peter Snowdon (OBE) about John Major's classless society?

Yours faithfully,
JOHN STOCKILL,
Rosedney, Gravel Road,
Binfield Heath,
Henley on Thames, Oxfordshire.
January 1.

From Mr J. V. B. Mockett

Sir, The elevation to the peerage of Sir David Wilson, the retiring governor of Hong Kong, honours a distinguished public servant: the Upper House will surely benefit from his experience. Surely it must not be too late to remedy the failure to

honour in the same manner two of his former colleagues whose careers have ranged far beyond the normal and indeed took them both onto the world stage.

I refer to Sir Nicholas Henderson and to Sir Anthony Parsons. Their performance in the USA during the Falklands war, to mention just one episode, was prominent and decisive: their knowledge and experience of world affairs can hardly be rivalled.

The media appear to have a better appreciation of their value than does Downing Street.

Yours faithfully,
JIM MOCKETT,
Stanley Street Chambers,
46 Stanley Street, Liverpool L1.

From Major T. A. E. Gibson, RA (read)

Sir, I was fortunate enough to get an MBE (I don't know if I deserved it) as a retired major, aged 59. My niece's husband was awarded the MBE as one recently promoted from sergeant to warrant officer class II, at the age of about 40. Good luck to him — isn't that "even" enough?

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

T. A. E. GIBSON,
27 Chaucer Crescent,
Newbury, Berkshire.

From Mr Ronald Bedford, OBE

Sir, A pity that John Major could not find room in his new year honours list for Britain's first space traveller, Helen Sharman. She showed the courage, and the faith in the future, that Britain needs so much. She went, she saw, she conquered — and with grace and modesty, too.

Yours disappointedly,
RONALD BEDFORD,
5 The Vale, Broadstairs, Kent.

tensity of reinforced concrete.

Alas, we have no buns currently on display. Should the desire of James Bishop (letter, December 19) for the museum to move to Somerset House, or that of Marcus Binney (feature, November 16) for the museum to move to Smithfield Market, be realised, then more of our collection would be on public view.

Until that time, our buns are well cared for.

Yours faithfully,

MICHAEL LAUNCHBURY,
Assistant Director,
Museum of London,
London Wall, EC2.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

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Blow to Alzheimer's disease research

From Sir Eldred Smith-Gordon

Sir. You report (December 31) that "The break-up of Britain's leading research team investigating the genetic causes of Alzheimer's disease was yesterday blamed on scientists being paid so little that some cannot afford to run a car".



COURT CIRCULAR

KENSINGTON PALACE
January 4: The Princess of Wales visited the Lord Clyde Centre at 90 Tyers Street, London SE11.

SANDRINGHAM
January 5: Divine service was

held at Sandringham Parish Church this morning.

The Bishop of Durham (The Right Reverend David Jenkins) preached the sermon.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Richard II, reigned 1377-99. Bordeaux, 1377. St Jean d'Arc, Domremy, France, 1412. Jacques Bessouet, mathematician, Basel, 1654; Jacques Etienne Montalier, balloonist, Annonay, France, 1745; Heinrich Schliemann, archaeologist, Newbury, Germany, 1822; Gustave Doré, artist and book illustrator, Strasbourg, 1832; Carl Sandburg, poet and biographer, Galesburg, Illinois, 1878.

DEATHS: Baldassare Peruzzi, architect, Rome, 1536; Fanny Burney, novelist and diarist, London, 1840; Hartley Coleridge, writer, Grasmere, Cumbria, 1849; Louis Braille, inventor of the system bearing his name, Paris, 1852; Richard Henry Dana, writer, Rome, 1882.

Birthdays today

Major K.G. Adams, 72; Mr Rowan Atkinson, actor and comedian, 37; Mr Paul Azinger, golfer, 32; Lord Balfour of Burleigh, 65; Sir Ashley Bramall,

Service appointments

Major M.J. Norman, Royal Engineers, to be placed on the retired list on March 3, 1992.

The Rev A.J. Harris to be Principal Chaplain (Roman Catholic) in the RAF from January 28, 1992.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr C.N. Agnew and Dr S.A. Nolan-Hughes
The engagement is announced between Christopher Nolan, younger son of Mr and Mrs Philip Agnew, of Keaton, Stamford, and Stephanie Ann, eldest daughter of Dr John Graham Hughes and the late Mrs Mary Hughes and stepdaughter of Mrs Lena Hughes of Knokke, Belgium.

Mr W.A.G. Black and Miss J.G. Tripp
The engagement is announced between William Arthur Gordon, son of Mr William Gordon Black, of Montreal, and Mrs Jane Black, of Montreal, and Jennifer Gay, daughter of Mr and Mrs Norman Tripp, of Winchmore Hill, London.

Mr S.I. Bowyer and Miss T.J. Smellie
The engagement is announced between Simon, only son of Mr and Mrs Kenneth Bowyer, of Naunton Beauchamp, Worcestershire, and Tiona, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Keith Smellie, of Rowington, Warwickshire.

Mr J.W. Brookman and Miss S.J. Robinson
The engagement is announced between James, son of Mr and Mrs John Brookman, of Reigate, Surrey, and Sarah, daughter of the late Lieutenant Colonel Derek Robinson and of Mrs Robinson, of Camberley, Surrey.

Mr A. Brown and Miss L.E. Ryder Richardson
The engagement is announced between Adam, eldest son of Mr and Mrs John Brown, of Ainsty, Dorset, and Lucy, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs David Ryder Richardson, of Weedon, Buckinghamshire.

Dr J.M. Bulsing and Miss E.L. Worlock
The engagement is announced between John Mark, son of the late Dr John Bulsing and of Mrs Ria Bulsing, of Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire, and Belinda Eurwen, daughter of Dr Freddie and the Hon Mrs Anna Worlock, of Fladbury, Worcestershire.

Mr D.J. Clarke and Miss J.S. Payne
The engagement is announced between David, son of Mr and Mrs H. Clarke, of Salcombe, and Joanna, daughter of the late Mr Derek Payne and of Mrs Peter Barrows, of Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire.

Captain S.C. Dexter and Miss M.M. Franklin
The engagement is announced between Sean Dexter, Royal Signals, son of Mr and Mrs A.C. Dexter, of Sussex, and Monica, daughter of Mr and Mrs M.G. Franklin, of Hythe, Kent.

Mr C.S.J. Dickson and Miss C.E.M. Jones
The engagement is announced between St John, only son of Mrs Roberta and the late Dr N.J. Dickson, of North Kensington, and Charlotte Emma Carolyn, only daughter of Mr and Mrs William Jones, of Rowstock, Oxfordshire.

Dr H.C.J. Godfray and Miss C.E.M. Elmslie
The engagement is announced between Charles, son of the late Mr Hugh Godfray and of Mrs Anne Tingley and stepson of Mr Paul Tingley, of Mayfield, Sussex, and Caroline, daughter of Mr and Mrs James Elmslie, of West Lavington, Sussex.

Mr T.R.W. Hopper and Mrs A.J. Palmer
The engagement is announced between Toby Hopper and Amanda Palmer (née Ridgway), of London.

Mr N.J.P. Hatton and Mrs H. Smith
The engagement is announced between Nigel, younger son of Lieutenant Colonel and Mrs R.M. Hatton, of Thornton House, Cambridge, and Catherine, elder daughter of Dr and Mrs D.H. Smith, of Swineshead, Boston, Lincolnshire.

Mr P.A. McKellar and Miss K.S. Macintyre
The engagement is announced between Peter Archibald, elder son of Mr and Mrs A. McKellar, of Edinburgh, and Kathleen Scarlett, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs A. Macintyre, also of Edinburgh.

OBITUARIES

DAME JUDITH ANDERSON

Dame Judith Anderson, actress, died in Santa Barbara, California, on January 3 aged 93. She was born in Adelaide on February 10, 1898.

JUDITH Anderson will be best remembered for her portrayal of the sinister and ultimately incinerated Mrs Danvers in the Hitchcock film *Rebecca* (1940), for which she was nominated for an Academy Award. But her career was primarily in the classical theatre, with a heavy emphasis on Greek tragedy and Shakespeare and although an Australian she achieved her most enduring success, on stage as well as on film, in America: she is to date the only woman to have played the title role in *Hamlet* at New York's Carnegie Hall. Her portrayal was rated as bloodless by the critics but she won a television Emmy Award in 1954 for her performance in *Macbeth* in a production televised for the American network NBC's "Hallmark Hall of Fame".

The high period in her career began in 1936 when she played Gertrude to Gielgud's Hamlet on Broadway. "Now that I have begun my classical education," she said, "do I dare breathe that I have dreamed of Lady Macbeth and now wish to act her?" A year later she played the part opposite Laurence Olivier at the Old Vic. She was 39 and it was her first appearance in London. Michel Saint-Denis's production was voted puzzling by audiences and on being transferred, to the New Theatre in the West End, it languished there. In 1941, however, Anderson's Lady Macbeth opposite the British born Maurice Evans on Broadway was a big success and rated very highly by the critics.

One of her last roles was in 1984, at the age of 86, when she played a grand dame in NBC television's daytime soap-opera *Santa Barbara*, where she also happened to live.

Judith Anderson was born Frances Margaret Anderson. Her father was Scottish by descent, her mother English and she was one of four children.

Her first appearance on stage was at the age of 17 in *A Royal Divorce* at the Theatre Royal in Sydney. Then, after a year spent touring Australia in *Monsieur Beaucaire* and *The Scarlet*



Pimpelm she moved to America in 1918, and made the rest of her life and career there.

Her Broadway debut was in a stock company at the old 14th Street Playhouse; in 1920, she toured the United States with William Gillette in *Dear Brutus*. By then, critics were already commenting on her "unrestrained" stage style which some were uncharitable enough to define as overacting in the grand manner.

Through the 1920s she played with a series of stock and regional companies until (after a brief return to her homeland in 1927) she succeeded Lynn Fontanne as Nina in O'Neill's *Strange Interlude* on Broadway. Three years later she was Lavinia in O'Neill's *Mourning Becomes Electra* and then, in 1936, Gertrude to Gielgud's Broadway *Hamlet*.

After her stage success as Lady Macbeth she repeated it twice on television during the 1950s, performances described by one local critic as "alternately vibrant, calculating, cruel, regal and pitiful; the intricacy of the characterisation was knitted so faultlessly that it had a thrilling power."

Judith Anderson's other great role was as Medea, most notably in a 1947 production which she invited Gielgud to direct and co-star in as Jason, though he was less entirely happy with either his production or his performance. She again played Medea in Australia for the opening of the Elizabethan Theatre Trust's first

year in 1955 and in Paris at the second Drama Festival, but not in Britain. In 1959 she filmed her Lady Macbeth opposite Maurice Evans but much of her later career on stage met with less success as modern audiences grew disenchanted with her often larger-than-life performances. She appeared in more than 25 films including *Stage Door Canteen*, *Salome* and *The Ten Commandments* but her films only occasionally achieved the distinction of the 1958 *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* in which she played Big Mama alongside Burl Ives, Elizabeth Taylor and Paul Newman.

Her post-war stage work included a sinister Miss Madrigal in the first production of *Enid Bagnold's The Chalk Garden* on Broadway (the role later played in London by Peggy Ashcroft), and a 1960 appearance at the Edinburgh Festival as Arkadia in a production of *The Seagull* which marked the stage debut of Tom Courtenay.

Back in America, she took increasingly to solo recitals featuring highlights from her former Shakespearian and Greek triumphs, although when she played one of these "Evenings With" at her own native Adelaide Festival, the local press was distinctly less than ecstatic.

She was created a Dame of the British Empire in the New Year Honours of 1960.

She continued to be active occasionally in films appearing in *Cinderella* (1960), *A Man Called Horse* (1970), *Inn of the Damned* (1974), and *Star Trek III* (1984).

Judith Anderson married twice, first to Benjamin Lehman and secondly to Luther Greene, with both marriages ending in divorce.

Her reputation seems likely to rest on her two major classical performances, notably the *Medea* of which Rosamund Gilder once wrote: "It is pure evil, dark, dangerous, cruel, ragging, ruthless. From beginning to end she maintains an almost incredible intensity, yet she varies her mood so constantly and moves with such skill through unexplored regions of pain and despair that she can hold her audience in suspense throughout the evening."

ROY MOORE

Roy Moore, CBE, former headmaster of Mill Hill School, died at Kingswood in Surrey on January 1 aged 83. He was born on January 10, 1908.

ROY Moore was born into a long-established Kentish family, and from simple origins achieved distinction in his chosen profession. He was educated at the Judd School, Tonbridge and King's College London, where he was awarded the Carter Gold Medal for English Verse. He joined the staff of Merton's School in 1931 and ran the English department until 1940, when he joined RAF Bomber Command; he became an intelligence officer, and rose to the rank of squadron leader. In 1945 he became headmaster of Lawrence Sheriff School, Rugby, where he spent six happy years; amongst other achievements, he was deeply involved in negotiating the school's own special status in the wake of the Butler Act of 1944.

In 1951 he was appointed headmaster of Mill Hill School. The school had been evacuated to St Bees, Cumbria, for almost the whole of the second world war and on its return much energy was needed to re-establish it in north London. Dr J.S. Whate started this work and under Roy Moore's leadership and guidance the school thrived and grew. This success was undoubtedly helped by the Middlesex scheme, a forerunner of the present assisted places scheme, and the school steadily increased in size until it contained well over 400 pupils. In 1957 Mill Hill marked its 50th anniversary with celebrations attended by the Queen and an appeal which raised funds to build a new art school and an extension to the science building as well as much needed improvements to the science building itself following a fire. In addition the chapel organ was renovated and the playing fields improved.

Roy Moore was appointed CBE in 1962 for services to education in the RAF. He had two happy marriages, and in both he celebrated a silver wedding. His first wife, Muriel, died in 1959 and in 1963 he married Lydia Park, widow of the Californian painter David Park. They eventually moved to California to live. Moore had earlier spent six months teaching at Berkeley, and returned for a year before settling in Santa Barbara where he taught for more than 15 years in the English Department of the University College of Santa Barbara.

Moore was a first class athlete in his youth and a very good cricketer who played well into his fifties. His second marriage opened up new horizons and led to the move to California but his roots were always in England, to which he returned two months before his death. He was a devoted Christian, a man of strong character and a deep sense of duty and one who got enormous pleasure from all the stages of his very varied career.

His second wife died in 1990, and he is survived by his two sons from his first marriage and by Lydia's daughters from her first marriage.

Royal Ascot

Her Majesty's Representative at Ascot wishes to announce that there will again be a limited number of Royal Enclosure vouchers available for new applicants for Friday, June 19 only of the Royal Meeting.

New applicants wishing to apply for these vouchers should write to Her Majesty's Representative, The Ascot Office, St James's Palace, London, SW1A 1BP, before March 31, stating the full names of those members of their family who require vouchers, together with their ages if between 16 and 25 years.

Sponsorship forms will then be sent which should be signed by a sponsor, who has been present in the Royal Enclosure for at least eight years. A ballot will be held and all new applicants will be notified of the result by mid-May.

Those applicants who were unsuccessful in previous ballots will again be required to submit their applications in writing and will be subject to the 1992 ballot, but the signature of a sponsor will not be necessary.

Previous holders of Royal Enclosure vouchers should apply in writing in the usual way before the end of April, stating their full names and ages if between 16 and 25 years.

In addition they may also apply for their children aged between 16 and 25 years who have not been granted Royal Enclosure vouchers previously. They will require a sponsor who has been present in the Royal Enclosure for eight years. Vouchers if granted, will be valid for the Friday only of the Royal Meeting and will be applied for before March 31.

In the enclosure ladies will wear formal day dress with a hat which must cover the crown of the head. Gentlemen will wear morning dress with top hat, or service dress.

School announcements



Air Chief Marshal Sir Alasdair Steedman, GCB, CBE, DFC, former UK Military Representative to Nato and later controller of the RAF Benevolent Fund, died on January 2 aged 69. He was born on January 29, 1922.

ALASDAIR Steedman owed his passion for Italian opera to a ploughed-up airstrip, a 15-hundredweight truck and, perhaps most of all, to the bravery of its driver. The scene was Florence in the autumn of 1944. Steedman, aged 22, was landing at the newly liberated airport, on a runway ploughed up by the retreating Germans when his Spitfire caught on the rough ground. The plane slewed across the airfield, smashed into the fuel-laden lorry and exploded. Only the heroism of the driver, who was strafing a German truck with his machine gun, saved Steedman's life. He teamed up with an SAS soldier, who was on a special operation, until they were forced to separate by an approaching German patrol. At another point he hitched a lift on the rear mudguard of a single-seater motor-cycle, until he decided his life at Florence. His

award of the DFC that year, however, recognised a natural talent in the air which steadily developed after the war. After commanding squadrons in Khartoum, then in Aden, his qualification as a category-A1 instructor and his appointment as chief instructor at the Central Flying School in the mid-50s confirmed his reputation as one of the finest pilots of his generation. Throughout his career he climbed into every cockpit he could find and, by the time he had flown 64 aircraft types, including helicopters.

Alasdair Steedman was born at Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex, of Scottish parents and was brought up in Middlesex where he went to Hampton Grammar School. His first job was in the City, which he loathed. In 1941, however, aged 19, he achieved his ambition: to join the RAF and learn to fly.

After the war he climbed inexorably upwards. He was the last expatriate commander of both the Ceylon and Malayan air forces, in 1957-59 and 1965-67 respectively and in between was station commander at RAF Lyneham — in the news last

year as the reception base for freed British hostages from Lebanon. Then after three years as commandant of the RAF Staff College, Bracknell, he joined the Air Force Board as the member for Supply and Organisation — responsible for equipment and its maintenance.

There followed three years in Brussels as Britain's representative on Nato's military committee before he retired in 1980.

Steedman was deeply affected by the death of his wife Dorothy within three years of his leaving the RAF. As if in compensation for the loss, he energetically immersed himself in his new job as controller of the RAF Benevolent Fund — until he retired from that too over three years ago.

He also became, among many other things, patron of the Central Flying School Association and was elected to the court of the Guild of Air Pilots and Air Navigators. He was made chairman of the governors of his old school at Hampton — which also provided him with a great source of pride by naming its new sports centre after him.

He is survived by his son and two daughters.

He was buried at Hampton.

Prudhoe Corner School, High Wycombe

The Spring Term begins today at Prudhoe Corner School with 380 pupils. Sixth Form Scholarship examinations will be held on January 20 and 21, and interviews on February 6. On February 13, the school will be holding the regional final of the Observer Mass Debating competition. Term ends on Friday, April 3.

Repton School

Lent Term begins today and ends on Sunday, March 21. The School Play, *Amadeus*, will be performed from March 16 to 19. Confirmation will be on Saturday, March 25.

St Mary's School, Twickenham

The Spring Term begins today and ends on Sunday, March 21. The School Play, *Amadeus*, will be performed from March 16 to 19. The Governors are pleased to announce that the target of £1 million for the Repton Schools Appeal has now been exceeded.

Stow Maries School

Term begins today, January 6, 1992. The Head Girl, Alexandra Mills, and the Deputy Head Girl, Callum Rosemary Stevens, will be making up our guest list for our 75th Anniversary in 1994. If you have lost touch, please contact us (01932) 716065.

St Catherine's School, Bransley

At St Catherine's School, Bransley, the Spring Term begins on Thursday, January 9, with Rhian Dobell as Head Girl, and Sally Hargreaves as Senior Daygirl. The Confirmation Service, taken by the Bishop of Gifford, will

Sir Sigmund Sternberg

A chance for shared vision among faiths

CHRISTIANITY and Islam both derive from Judaism. It is not surprising therefore that the three monotheistic faiths have a great deal in common.

There are also important differences arising from the history, development and very ethos of each. One of these differences relates to missionary activity. Christianity and Islam both seek converts; Judaism does not. Indeed, the Jewish people have suffered so much from attempts to convert them that apostasy bears a particular stigma and anything that smacks of mission strikes a chord which conjures up images of persecution and massacre.

That is why a movement like "Jews for Jesus" is particularly obnoxious. The method, the message, the targeting of the young, the confused, the vulnerable, all create suspicion and extreme unease. It is not possible to be a Christian and Jew at one and the same time to suggest otherwise trivialises the issues and undermines the important real dialogue between Christians and Jews, which is one of the more hopeful aspects of the post-war two-period.

Vatican II in 1965, followed by similar declarations of the worldwide Anglican communion and the Lutheran church, have helped build bridges of communication. The even earlier establishment, in Britain of the Council of Christians and Jews (now on the eve of its Golden Jubilee Year) and its spread to many countries on all five continents, including recently Eastern Europe, marked a movement towards reconciliation and an opportunity of shared vision.

Obviously the Holocaust was a prime factor. The horror at what happened in the heart of Christian Europe made such activities of minority groups, words like racism, genocide, holocaust, pogroms and ghettos, all derive from the Jewish experience and until very recently were used only in connection with the persecution of Jews. The current upsurge of neo-Nazism, racism and antisemitism does

not invalidate past experiences but rather serves as a warning of the way these diseases still constitute a danger, especially in times of unrest and economic recession.

"Perhaps Jewish expectations of the rapprochement with Christianity have been exaggerated in some circles, including Jewish circles and misunderstood in others. For instance, what we do not seek at least within the Orthodox Jewish community are theological dialogues in the narrow sense of subjecting each faith to the critical scrutiny of the other," says Lord Jakobovits. He goes on:

"Nor do we aspire to joint religious services, or to interfaith activities of a specifically religious nature, as a desired expression of mutual trust and respect."

This would seem to accord with the views expressed in the recent challenge laid down to the Archbishop of Canterbury by 2,000 Anglican clergymen who have come out strongly in opposition to joint prayers with representatives of the other faiths — including Jews.

To reach that conclusion would be to jettison the experience of the recent past and to suggest that there is no way in which the different faith communities can share a religious experience on occasions like Commonwealth or Armistice Day.

In fact such gatherings do take place and utilise biblical texts — like the psalms — which the major faiths often hold in common. As in many matters, language is all important. Joint religious services raise problems on both sides: joint religious events may indeed have been held in major Christian places of worship and there is no reason why they should not continue. It is to Dr Carey's credit that he seeks to continue what his predecessors, Lord Runcie and Lord Coggan, initiated and what the protesting clergymen fail to understand and seek to end.

In the event, it will be for the faith communities themselves to decide. Each religion must determine how to pursue its path towards peace, compassion and brotherhood but there is no doubt that the Koran is right when it avers that there can be no compulsion in religion.

Sir Sigmund Sternberg is an Officer of the Council of Christians and Jews and a Knight Commander of the Papal Order of St Gregory the Great.

Nature notes

ROBIN

COLLARED doves are singing their plaintive three-note song on rooftops; when they fly to another perch, they bow deeply and raise their tails high in the sky before resuming their song. Other birds singing with some regularity are robins, wrens, song-thrushes and great tits. Moorhens are feeding on riverbanks; they often run at each other in anger and all run back very fast to the river on their long green legs when they are disturbed. Canada geese are foraging in the fields in large flocks almost everywhere in England now; when they fly back to their home lakes, they come in fast on the wind, then all swing simultaneously into the wind to brake as they settle on the water.

Lakesides look bleaker as the whitish-brown leaves fall from the phragmites reeds, though the tall

DUKE

stems still stand, slightly bent, with all the seeds hanging from the lower side like a feathery fringe. Leafless trees reveal their skeletons; young hornbeams with their closely packed twigs look like stiff hairbrushes; sweet chestnuts and horse-chestnuts have long, whirling boughs; while lime tree branches, which have plenty of space between them, zigzag more than those of any other British tree.

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The village of Karagai is situated in the Province of Perm. Like most north Russian villages, Karagai consists of a few very wide streets, unpaved, and never cleaned, frighteningly muddy in wet weather. It consists of 140 homesteads, besides a few shops, a church, a school, and a little hospital that served a tract of country nearly as big as Wales.

In the middle of June, 1918, a company of about 150 of the Workmen's and Peasants' Red Army came to this village. Every man was armed with rifle, bayonet, revolver, and bombs; some carried swords in addition, and the company possessed a machine-gun. This motley company streamed into the village in requisitioned country carts or mounted upon requisitioned peasants' horses, and bil-

Take heart, my children: Cry to God, and let him rescue you from tyranny and from the power of your enemies.

Scripture, 4:21 REB

BIRTHS

BODEN - On 28th Dec 1991 in Edinburgh, To John and Helen Scott, wife of Doctor Julian Boden a lovely daughter, Sarah Alexandra Sharrow. She is the second child of Mrs Helen Scott, MBE MHS School: beloved Father of John and David. Funeral at St Paul's Church, Edinburgh.

BUCHANAN - On December 28th, at the Portland Hospital, London, to Alan and Karen, a daughter, Lucy Marlene, a brother and sister for Grace.

CARLISLE - On December 29th, at St Richard's Priory, Carlisle, to Philip and Elizabeth, a son, Mark.

COMINA - On Jan 3rd to Beverly and Peter, a son, Daniel.

CORNISH - On January 4th, at St Paul's Church, London, to Sarah Fiona (née Camerlo) and Paul, a son, Archie Anthony, a brother and sister for Grace.

CRAVEN - On December 29th, at St Edmund's Church, Buxton, to John and Mary, a son, Christopher.

DARLINGTON - On December 29th, at St Michael's Church, Darlington, to Alan and Linda, a daughter, Sophie.

DARLTON - On December 29th, at the Portland Hospital, London, to Caroline (née Bentley) and Simon, a son, Alexander.

DAWSON - On December 29th, at St Paul's Church, London, to Philip and Alison, a son, James.

DEAN - On December 29th, at St Paul's Church, London, to Philip and Alison, a son, Philip.

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NEW RELEASES

• **BILL & TED'S BOGUS JOURNEY** (PG) Return of the endlessly stupid time-traveling duo. Tensionless, frantic comedy. Keenen Ivory Wayans. *Alex Winter*. Director: *Pete Hewitt*. Cannon Oxford Street (071-436 0310). Open Sat 1pm, Sun 2pm, Mon 7pm. Marle Arch (0426 914501) West End (0426 913574) Whitesleys (071-792 3332).

• **DELICATESSEN** (15) French video whizzkids Jean and Caro's wonderfully bizarre fantasy about a housewife who becomes a cannibalistic butcher. Director: Dominique Pinon. Marie Laure Drouard. Cannons: *Cannons: Chelsea* (071-356 6148). Tots'n'Tots Children's Room (071-730 6148). Tots'n'Tots (071-727 4942). Merton (071-437 0757). Screen on the Net (071-435 3366).

V. I. WARSHAWSKI (15) Dingy, clumsy, foul-mouthed thiller extracted from Sam Peckinpah's *Death Wish* and given a campballistic, burlesque dimension. Pinon. Marie Laure Drouard. Cannons: *Cannons: Chelsea* (071-356 6148). Tots'n'Tots Children's Room (071-730 6148). Tots'n'Tots (071-727 4942). Merton (071-437 0757). Screen on the Net (071-435 3366).

• **THE ADDAMS FAMILY** (PG) Tacky least of black humour, inspired by 1960s TV spin-off from Charles Addams' macabre cartoons. Starring Raul Julia, Raul Julia, Carolyn Christopher Lloyd, director: Barry Sonnenfeld. Cannons: *Baker Street* (071-356 6148). Tots'n'Tots Children's Room (071-730 6148). Tots'n'Tots (071-727 4942). Whitesleys (071-792 3332).

• **AN AMERICAN TAIL: FIEVEL GOES WEST** (U) Hectic sequel to the 1986 hit, set in the Wild West. A Steven Spielberg production, directors Phil Alibekian, Steven Wells.

• **THE COMMITMENTS** (15) Hard-bitten Dublin youngsters form a soul band, and their music is busily played by a largely amateur cast. Director: Alan Parker.

Cannons: *Chelsea* (071-352 5096). Shaftesbury Avenue (071-636 8861). Odeons: *Mezzanine* (071-636 1503).

• **CURLY SUE** (PG) Curly and his mother are a corporate attorney. Ugly mix of slapstick and sentiment, with a sensible child star (*African Porter*) Winn James Belushi. Kelly Lynch, director: John Hughes. Cannons: *Chelsea* (071-730 1527). 2336 Haymarket (071-633 1527).

• **BECKETT**: Riveting performances from Derek Jacobi and Robert Lindsay in another play on the stage, between them: *Beckett* and *Henry IV*. Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (071-930 8800). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mat Wed, Sat, 3pm. 150mins.

• **THE CABINET MINISTER**: Derek Jacobi and Maureen Lipman in a slobby, less unfunny farce. Comedy. Almeida, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (071-867 1115). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mat Wed, Sat, 3pm. 150mins.

• **DANCING AT LUGHNASA**: Brian Friel's Other Award-winning memory-play, set in 1930s Donegal, returns with a new cast. Gaiety, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (071-924 5028). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 4pm. 150mins.

• **AN EVENING WITH GARY LINEKER**: Sometimes droll look at the fantasies of a woman married to a soccer nut.

Duchess, Catherine Street, London WC2 (071-490 1290). Mon-Sat, 8pm, Fri, Sat, 8pm and 9.45pm. 130mins.

• **THE GREAT PRETENDERS**: You're a widow and a merry victim. Genesius, the patron saint of actors, in Lope de Vega's moral comedy. Brilliantly played.

Gates, Prince Albert Pub, 11 Paddington Place, W1 (071-636 0000). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm. 130mins.

• **JACK AND THE BEANSTALK**: Grittying production stars an irrepressible Cate Blanchett, with Tudor Davies a grand dame.

Piccadilly, Denmark Street, W1 (071-800 1118). Mon-Sat, 2.30pm and 7.30pm.

• **THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE**: You know what you don't: if you do, the production is attractively staged, clear and touching. Nymead, Puddle Dock, EC4 (071-410 0000). Mon-Sat, 3pm and 6.30pm.

• **THE LITTLE CLAY CART**: Disappointingly charmless version of what could have been an inspiring glimpse of classical Indian theatre.

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and where indicated with the symbol \diamond on release across the country.

Oxford Street (071-636 0310) MGM

Trocadero (071-334 0031) Whitesleys

(071-792 3332)

ENCHANTED APRIL (U) Four

Englishwomen share an Italian villa in

the 1920s. A fine

entertainment

Starring Miranda Richardson, Joann

Piaggi, Rose Lawrence, director:

Caron Shafrazi Avenue (071-636

6148) Whitesleys (071-792 3332).

FANTASTIC APPLAUSE (15) French video

whizzkids Jean and Caro's

wonderfully bizarre fantasy about a

housewife who becomes a

cannibalistic butcher. Director:

Barry Sonnenfeld. Cannons: *Cannons: Chelsea* (071-356 6148). Tots'n'Tots Children's Room (071-730 6148). Tots'n'Tots (071-727 4942). Merton (071-437 0757). Screen on the Net (071-435 3366).

THE HERO (15) Jaunty,

absurdly comical comedy about old age

and life's delectations from

the man who wrote *The Royal Ballet*

and *Frederick Ashton*. Director:

Caron Shafrazi Avenue (071-636

6148) Whitesleys (071-792 3332).

HOT SHOTS! (12) Sport comedy

from Armando Iannucci. Starring

Mark Addy, Steve Pemberton

and David Mitchell. Director:

Caron Shafrazi Avenue (071-636

6148) Whitesleys (071-792 3332).

KILLERS (18) Winter

Kurosawa's directorial debut

the boucher drab tale of a modern

Candide on Notting Hill's streets. With

Stephen Rea, Steven Mackintosh, Ewan

McGregor. Director: Kiyoshi

Chung. Cannons: *Baker Street* (071-636

6148) Whitesleys (071-792 3332).

LONDON KILLS ME (18) Winter

Kurosawa's directorial debut

the boucher drab tale of a modern

Candide on Notting Hill's streets. With

Stephen Rea, Steven Mackintosh, Ewan

McGregor. Director: Kiyoshi

Chung. Cannons: *Baker Street* (071-636

6148) Whitesleys (071-792 3332).

LORETTA (18) Murder, high fashion

and anti-Catholic pokes from the

immortal Pedro Almodóvar, made in

1985. Asleep. Starring Sophie Marceau

as a chic lawyer and bull-

fighter obsessed with love and death

Meter (071-437 0575).

THE PEOPLE UNDER THE STARS (18) Ghoulish burglars penetrate

newlywed couple's lonely mix of

greedy, frantic sex, and social

lame from director Wes Craven

Starring Brandon Adams, Everett

McGill, Robbie Robinson. Director:

Caron Shafrazi Avenue (071-636

6148) Whitesleys (071-792 3332).

PROLETTO (PG) Passionate

romance by Kevin Reynolds

with a coherent style, a

scare-stealing Sheriff of Nottingham

(Alain Rickman), and a meek star

Rober Paltch. A fine showcase for

special effects, but the humans get

short shrift. Director: James Cameron, with Linda Hamilton.

Director: Caron Shafrazi Avenue (071-636

6148) Whitesleys (071-792 3332).

RIOGALETO (PG) Pavarotti hits the

high notes, but Jean-Pierre Ponnelle's

film of Verdi's opera remains resolved

stagebound. Made for television in

1983. Ingrid Boulting, Edita

Gruberova, and Riccardo Chailly

conducting. Director: Claudio

Porte. Cannons: *Haymarket* (071-633 1527).

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of current theatre in London

■ House full, returns only

■ Some seats available

■ Seats at all prices

National (Compton), South Bank, SE1 (071-922 2252). Tonight, 7.30pm, 45mins.

■ MURALIFING: JUDGES

David Hare's latest political system

gives the contest but a powerful

bout.

National (Oliver), South Bank, SE1 (071-922 2252). Tonight, 7.30pm, 12.45am.

■ THE MYSTERIES OF MARIA

Mark T躢ler's dark comedy

detective comedy explores a famous

Warehouse, Dingley Road, East

Croydon (081-699 4060). Tues-Sat, 8pm, 4.45pm.

■ PHANTOM OF THE OPERA:

Gleeful version of the old thriller

by Gaston Leroux, with

David Hare and

Robert Llewellyn. Director:

Tricycle, Old Vic (071-497 9045).

■ RUMBLE IN THE BONE

John Osborne's comedy

about a man who wants to

get his son back from his wife.

Director: Peter Hall. Royal

Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2 (071-580 1060). Tues-Sat, 7pm, 8pm, 9pm.

■ THE RIDE DOWN MT MORGAN:

Arthur Miller's disquieting one-

act drama, with a twist.

Director: Tom Conti. Royal

Shakespeare, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (071-580 1060). Tues-Sat, 7pm, 8pm, 9pm.

■ RETURN TO THE FORBIDDEN PLANET

Mark T躢ler's science-fiction

thriller, with a twist. Director:

Caron Shafrazi Avenue (071-636

6148) Whitesleys (071-792 3332).

■ THE SWELL PARTY

A Celebration of Cole Porter's

JANUARY 6
lu virus
ails to
trigger
pandemic

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SPORT 28-34

THE TIMES BUSINESS

MONDAY JANUARY 6 1992

BUSINESS EDITOR JOHN BELL

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MAN OF THE WEEK

Dixons' master of retail keep-fit

Refreshed by a cruise in the Caribbean to celebrate his 60th birthday, Stanley Kalms should be in fine form to present Dixons' half-year profits to the City on Wednesday.

Since the bid from Kingfisher two years ago, the sometimes chubby Kalms has been revitalised, working out at the Meridian Gym in London's Piccadilly with a personal trainer three times a week. He has been punishing his company just as hard.

Money has been poured into staff training, tired old sites have been closed, new sites opened, fresh management brought in, and market share increased.

Profits are expected to be down by about a third, on the £27 million reported for the same six months last year, owing mainly to losses in America. But what everyone really



Kalms: punishing

wants to know is how Christmas went.

If the news is good, as many suspect, Kalms may lapse into some of the superlatives for which he is famous. After 46 years in the business, he is a master retailer who takes whatever fortune throws at him with an aggressive vigour. "Every single situation should be seen as a challenge," he said recently.

Born under the star sign Scorpio, he admits to being impatient, a perfectist and a bit of a bully. While he is ruthless in business, however, his warmth and humour endear him to friends and rivals alike. Despite the swish flat overlooking Green Park and his yacht, *Teak Moi*, moored off Antibes, he is the least pretentious of all the tycoons. He also has a thoughtful side, disliking the aspect of capitalism which ignores social issues, and referring to his own lack of classical education as "an absolute disaster".

A millionaire since he was 30, he has never lost his enthusiasm for the business and an inexhaustible fascination with new products. Perhaps this week he will predict the best sellers of 1992.

JUDI BEVAN
Week ahead, page 27

CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND

US dollar 1.8520 (-0.0247)
German mark 2.8567 (+0.0107)
Exchange index 91.4 (-0.3)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET	
FT 30 share	1901.4 (+59.6)
FT-SE 100	2504.1 (+85.4)
New York Dow Jones	3201.48 (+99.56)
Tokyo Nikkei Avge	Closed

CBI data show lower pay deals and higher productivity

BY PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

PROMDUCTIVITY in manufacturing is expected to accelerate sharply over the next year, the Confederation of British Industry forecasts as it reports a continuing decline in pay settlements across industry.

Figures from the CBI's pay data bank also suggest that the decline in pay settlements might be slowing down and that a floor for wage deals might have been reached.

The CBI's employment affairs

report, published today, reflects in its productivity forecasts the impact of both falling wage deals and lower employment levels. Of those companies that reached wage agreements in the third quarter of last year, annual productivity gains averaging 5.5 per cent were reported to the CBI, against 3.4 per cent in the previous two quarters.

Looking ahead to expected productivity growth over the next 12 months, companies in the CBI's survey are forecasting a sharp rise — up from 4.9 per cent in the

second quarter of last year to 6.4 per cent in the third quarter. Similar figures a year ago overstated likely productivity growth, though not by much, suggesting that the CBI's estimate of improvements in productivity might be a reliable guide to future trends.

Pay settlement levels are continuing to fall, with companies reporting deals running at an average of 5.4 per cent for the third quarter, against 6.3 per cent in the previous year.

The CBI says that details of

the first few settlements for the last quarter of last year show a further decline. However, the revised figure of 5.4 per cent has been barely altered from the CBI's previous estimate for this quarter of 5.5 per cent. This suggests that later pay deals might start to creep up again, especially if there is an improvement in the economy.

Pay deals in the private service sector are continuing to run well above inflation. CBI figures show average settlements for the second half of last year running at 6.4 per cent. While this is down on the 7.1 per cent in the first half, it is above

the level ministers would like. CBI leaders are taking some comfort that their figures show one in four manufacturing settlements running at or below 3.5 per cent.

Sir John Banham, CBI director general, said: "With productivity in UK manufacturing industry rising, and pay settlements now below the level of those in West Germany and closing on those in France, the outlook for the competitiveness of British business for inflation and, in the longer term, for interest rates is good."

JULIAN HERBERT

Heavy tax bills threaten closure for small firms

BY DEREK HARRIS

THOUSANDS of small firms face closure this year as they struggle to meet tax bills based on boom-time profits earned up to 20 months ago.

The threat of closures was described by the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) as "horrible" for a sector that Michael Howard, the employment minister, has described as "the bedrock of the economy". Bill Knox, the FSB chairman, believes the January "blight of bills" could rapidly accelerate an already soaring rate of closures to the worst seen for years.

Tom O'Connor, chairman of the Confederation of British Industry's smaller firms council, said the outlook for small businesses in the first quarter of this year looked bleaker than had hitherto been anticipated by the CBI.

Under the current tax system, business taxes can be levied up to 21 months in arrears, assuming a small business is up to date in putting in returns.

With many small businesses barely profitable in the current recession, the prospect of sizeable tax bills based on prior years' income is daunting.

Conservative backbenchers and small business leaders are likely to campaign for sympathetic treatment from the government and the Inland Revenue.

Many businesses will be forced to seek Revenue agreement to pay their tax bills in stages. This will give a breathing space of no more than a few months. In the meantime, interest charged on unpaid tax continues to accumulate.

The self-employed sector, which covers most small businesses except those that are incorporated, pays out more than £30 billion in tax a year, in two instalments following due

at the start and middle of the year.

For the self-employed and partnerships, the half-year bills fell due on January 1, while value-added tax demands for the quarter ended in December have to be met by the end of this month.

If business can show it has fallen into current year losses it should be possible to secure stage payments, Philip Hardman, senior tax partner at Grant Thornton, the chartered accountant which specialises in small and medium-sized businesses, said.

Many businesses will be forced to seek Revenue agreement to pay their tax bills in stages. This will give a breathing space of no more than a few months. In the meantime, interest charged on unpaid tax continues to accumulate.

Sometimes a tax inspector will, in difficult circumstances, allow current losses to be offset against previous year profits but this is not the norm, said Mr Hardman. He gave warning that while it was possible, it was much tougher to secure stage payment deals for value-added tax dues.

The latest CBI industrial trends analysis for small businesses, due this month, looks likely to reflect the gloom of the latest published industrial trends survey from the CBI.

Mr O'Connor said: "For small businesses things are looking fairly bleak and in making provision for outgoings at this time of the year they will have a very difficult time."

"Exports seem to be drying up fairly rapidly while the home market has been stagnating for some time."

He added: "Previously, we had not expected improvements before the first quarter of 1992. Now we have approached that first quarter we are beginning to wonder whether we are right. It seems now it will not bring the improvement we expected."

The FSB has predicted that more than 50,000 businesses will prove to have failed last year of which it believes at least 40,000 will have been small firms.

ERIC Forth, the small firms minister, has welcomed the codes of practice introduced by the big five clearing banks, for dealing with small business customers.

The codes were drawn up at the request of Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, after protests from small firms about their treatment by the clearers.

Sterling's improvement could be short-lived if the currency market changes its

Labour tax focus, page 1

Lamont reinforces devaluation vow

BY COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

NORMAN Lamont, the Chancellor, has reinforced his commitment to keep the pound firmly in the European exchange rate mechanism (ERM), saying he is "totally opposed" to devaluation.

His rejection of devaluation in a TV-am interview yesterday was his most strongly worded comment to date. Importantly, it came on the eve of sterling's post-new year test in a fully operating global foreign exchange market. All the main financial centres are open for normal trading from today. The pound established a firmer tone, reaching DM2.8567 at the Bank of England's close on Friday, but the advance largely reflected the sagging mark.

Last week, the Confederation of British Industry downgraded its 1992 growth forecast to 1 per cent from 1.7 per cent. Goldman Sachs economics research group, in its latest forecast, has downgraded its growth prediction to 1.7 per cent from 2.2 per cent, broadly in line with the Treasury. Gavin Davies, the group's chief UK economist, said: "More worrying is the possibility that the economy is slipping into a second leg of recession — a double dip recession can no longer be safely ruled out." He believes a further period of broadly flat economic activity, probably lasting into the spring or early summer, was more likely.

A more bearish scenario is in the latest forecast from the Cambridge Economic Policy Group, which expects the economy to shrink 0.8 per cent this year after a 2.5 per cent fall last year.

Sterling's improvement could be short-lived if the currency market changes its

Labour tax focus, page 1

Gates becomes America's richest man

FROM PHILIP ROBINSON
IN NEW YORK

WILLIAM Gates, co-founder of Microsoft, the computer programme maker, has become America's richest man, worth \$6.4 billion, at the age of 36.

The surge in American share prices has added at least \$3.6 billion to his wealth and catapulted him above John Kluge, formerly the richest man, whose Metromedia Communications Corporation includes steak houses, long-distance telephone carriers and the majority of Orion Pictures, the financially troubled *Silence of the Lambs* film maker.

Mr Kluge, a 77-year-old three-divorced Virginian, is estimated to be worth just under \$6 billion and was



being ranked among America's richest people while the unmarried Mr Gates was still rattling relatively small change. In the past year, however, Microsoft's shares have more than doubled to \$114.75 and closed on Fri-

day only a fraction off their peak at \$113, valuing Mr Gates' near-third share of the company he co-founded at \$180 million for each year of his life.

If Wall Street analysts are right, Microsoft's share price will hit \$130 before the year end, and the Harvard dropout who started the company in 1975 with fellow "hacker" Paul Allen, will be worth at least \$7.37 billion.

Bespectacled Mr Gates, whose work ethic has lifted him to the ranks of the most powerful in the computer industry, says his paper wealth means little. Even given an infinite amount of money, he would still order the same hamburger.

However, since becoming America's youngest billionaire in 1987, he has ordered a 959 Porsche, a Ferrari, a

Lexus and has been hard at work on a 37,000 sq ft house in the suburbs of his home town of Seattle. While his programmes are estimated to operate more than 40 million computers around the world and despite his status, Mr Gates is relatively little known outside the world of electronic wizardry. He had a reputation as a "computer nerd" when he was growing up. He dresses casually in clothes that are not readily recognisable as designer labels.

Last year, thanks to his new programme, Windows 3.0, Microsoft's revenue jumped 66 per cent and net income rose 56 per cent. He wrote his first commercial programme 20 years ago, plotting the Seattle traffic patterns. The town paid him \$20,000.

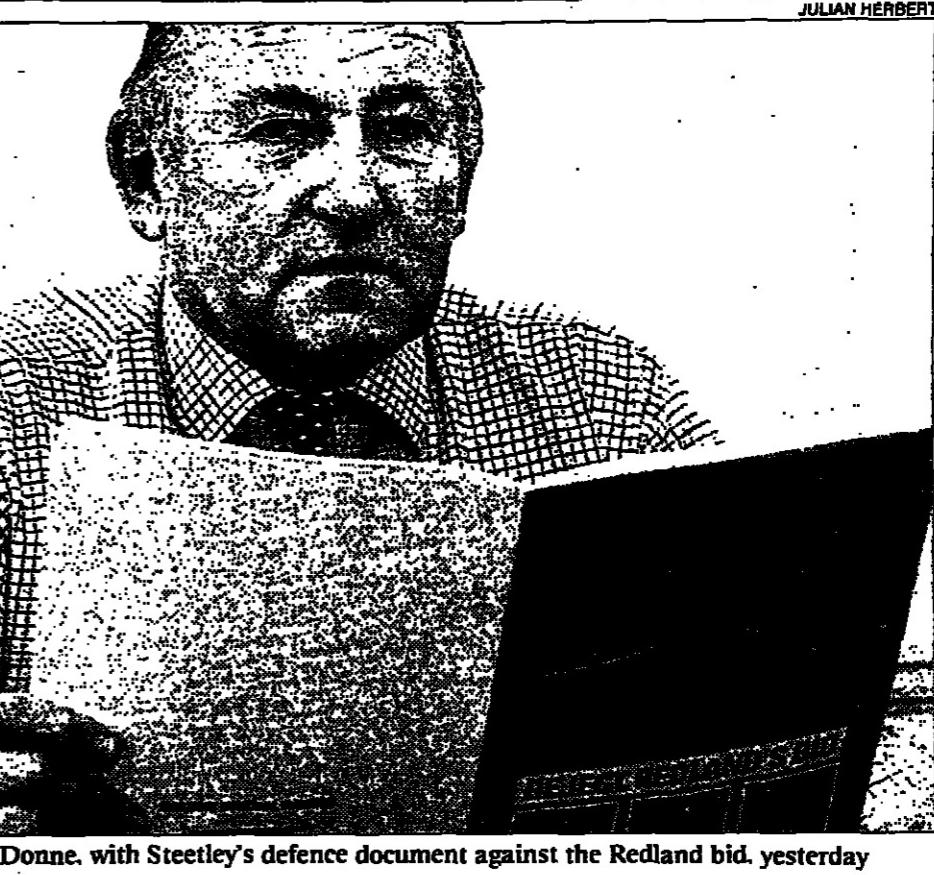
Copies of the document are available from the following address:
P.O. Box 53, Brownsdown Road,
Rugby, Warwickshire,
CV21 2UT

A freephone number is available carrying a message

from Steetley's Chairman David Donne.

0800 66 66 99

The Directors of Steetley plc accept responsibility for the information contained in this advertisement and the recorded message from the Chairman. To the best of their knowledge, and belief, the Directors have taken all reasonable care to ensure that such is the case. The Chairman contacted the action line and in the recorded message from the Chairman in accordance with the fair representation principle have made every effort to reflect the opinion of our shareholders. S.G. Warburg & Co Ltd has advised the Company of its satisfaction in this respect. Section 56 of the Financial Services Act 1986



T&L to help chief buy house

BY ROSS TIEMAN

TATE & LYLE, the foods group best known for its contribution to the icing on everybody's cake, is asking shareholders' consent to assist the purchase of a house worth up to £1 million by Stephen Brown, its managing director.

In a special resolution to approve Mr Brown's contract at this month's annual meeting in London, Tate says it intends to fund up to 70 per cent of the cost of a home for Mr Brown, who would have the option to buy out the company share, at market value.

Although he was born in Britain, Mr Brown owns a

house in America. The 52-year-old managing director was recruited from Alcan, the Canadian aluminium company, last spring.

Shareholders are also being asked to approve a remuneration package including the payment of three years' salary to Mr Brown for loss of office. In his first year with Tate, he is believed to have earned a salary of about £200,000. He steps up to become chief executive in April, leaving Neil Shaw, the present chairman and chief executive, with only the chairman's role.

In the year to September 1991, Mr Shaw took a pay

cut of £132,000, to £436,000,

despite a £16.6 million increase in Tate's pre-tax profits, to £234.6 million.

A spokesman for Tate said the company had agreed to help Mr Brown buy a house because he was being asked to move to a new country to take up his post. The spokesman said: "It won't be a bedsit in Balham. It will probably be a very nice house in Chelsea, or somewhere like that, but it won't cost anything like £1 million. My guess is that we are talking about £200,000 or £300,000 from the company."

Business letters, page 25

S STEETLEY

Steetley's rejection of Redland's bid is available now

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from the following address:

P.O. Box 53, Brownsdown Road,

Rugby, Warwickshire,

CV21 2UT

A freephone number is available carrying a message

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Just in time

Chemical industry sceptical about timing of upturn

By PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BRITAIN'S chemical industry will see only a slow recovery towards the end of this year, chemical industry leaders will be told this week, in a further example of the continuing impact of the recession.

The unpublished, gloomy forecasts are likely to be significant for British industry overall. Chemicals form Britain's third-largest manufacturing industry, and British manufacturing's leading export earner.

John Major, the prime minister, and Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, claim that economic recovery is already under way, but forecasts about the feedstock chemical industry, to be announced this week, will be much more sceptical about the timing and extent of any turnaround in the economy.

Figures to be presented on Wednesday to leaders of the



Freeman: revising down

British chemical industry at the annual business outlook conference in London, organised by the Chemical Industries' Association, the industry's umbrella body, will suggest an overall growth in chemical output of only 2.5 per cent this year.

Further scepticism about the economy since these estimates were made by the CIA towards the end of last year, may lead Richard Freeman, chairman of the CIA's economic appraisal committee, and also ICI's chief economist, to revise downward the output estimates still further.

The estimates are in line with statements from Sir Denys Henderson, ICI chairman, who said last week he saw no sign of an early pick-up in the industry.

While the chemical industry expects to see some recovery this year, industry economists believe it will be slow, and will only come towards the end of the year.

Figures to be presented to the CIA conference will also confirm the industry had a poor year in 1991. Output was broadly flat, in line with the industry's forecasts 12

months ago, though chemicals did see some improvement in the second half, bolstered by the pharmaceuticals sector, its star performer. In contrast, sectors such as organic chemicals and fertilisers continued to perform badly.

Employment in the industry has fallen more sharply than was forecast, the figures will show.

Employment was expected to fall about 2 per cent to about 310,000, but, in fact, declined 3 per cent. Prices in the industry rose about 5 per cent, as forecast.

The most worrying figures for ministers and the industry are likely to be the statistics on investment, which are much worse than had been forecast.

A year ago, the chemical industry estimated that investment would be cut about 10 per cent. Given the heavy and long-term investment of the chemical industry, this raised fears of a large-scale cut in manufacturing investment overall.

The conference will be told that investment has fallen in the industry by half as much again as forecast — 15 per cent overall — confirming how hard the recession has hit major manufacturers' ability to invest and casting doubt on the ability of chemicals and manufacturing to recover quickly when there is an economic upturn.

Mr Freeman is also expected to criticise the standard of government statistics on the performance of the chemical industry, though the industry acknowledges that the problems caused by what it sees as a poor standard of government data may be eased by higher-level EC statistical requirements.

By JONATHAN PRYNN

BRITISH insurers, already suffering from the worst market conditions for 25 years, face the additional hazard of fines of up to 10 per cent of their gross premium income if they fail to comply with tough new European Commission anti-trust regulation, a leading insurance lawyer has warned.

Anthony Fitzsimmons, of Ince & Co, said that the threat comes from a team working under the aegis of Commission Directorate XV, which covers financial institutions and company law.

The team has been drawing up a list of "benign" market practices, such as standardised policy conditions, which can be exempted from the EC anti-trust rules. A draft of these "block exemptions" is expected to be presented to the trade and industry department in March. After that, the EC team is expected to turn its attention to other practices which have not been exempted, Mr Fitzsimmons said.

Under the EC treaty "all agreements... which have as their object or effect the prevention, restriction or distortion of competition within the Common Market," are void and illegal.

Fines in other industries have shown that the commission is prepared to enforce the rules. ICI was fined £12 million and Tetrapak, the Swedish packaging group, was fined £52 million under the anti-monopoly article.

Mr Fitzsimmons said that there was "across the board ignorance" among insurers about the powers of the commission, which include the power to search premises. He advised that insurers involved in non-exempted market practices should seek individual exemptions.

Institutions hit by liquidity problem

By MARTIN BARROW

FINANCIAL institutions, flush with cash in 1991, will suffer a negative cash outflow of £7.5 billion this year, according to an estimate by Robert Fleming, the merchant bank.

The government's rising borrowing requirements, combined with reduced premiums and contributions, will take a heavy toll on institutional liquidity this year which, in turn, will make it more difficult for companies to raise equity finance to repair their balance sheets.

This is in sharp contrast to 1990 and 1989 when institutions benefited from a cash inflow of £28.3 billion and about £4.5 billion respectively, which helped fund rights issues worth a total of £10.5 billion last year.

The downturn in institutional fortunes will increase pressure on companies to reduce costs and diversify businesses to strengthen their balance sheets as the economic and political environment remains uncertain, Fleming gives warning in its corporate review of 1991.

Debt markets are likely to remain tight as banks continue to be reluctant lenders given the scale of corporate failures and consequent

writes-offs in recent years," the review says.

Despite this hostile scenario, Fleming, which describes 1991 as "the darkest hour before the dawn", foresees more mergers and acquisitions this year, driven by companies with stronger balance sheets that are able to take advantage of those forced to divest. Nearly 50 per cent of the proceeds of last year's rights issues was earmarked for balance sheet repair.

In takeovers, the odds are likely to still be stacked against defending companies, few of which will be able to strengthen their defence through strong profit forecasts and asset valuations, or to call upon a white knight. Shareholders will be more inclined to take the money now than to take future performance on trust.

Flemings concludes: "The City has often been accused of not understanding the problems and timescales of industry — at least this time industry can console itself that the City has, by its very different perception of the world, been prepared to provide the substantial funds required to rebuild balance sheets and provide investment for the recovery."

CONRAD Ritblat, the property surveying partnership headed by John Ritblat, is to incorporate and become a limited company.

The move comes seven years after the partners bought the practice from British Land, the property group that Mr Ritblat chairs, and more than 30 years after Mr Ritblat helped found the agency.

Mr Ritblat will remain senior partner of Conrad Ritblat and will continue to play an active role.

"Incorporation is a key step in the development of a forward-looking commercial practice appropriate to the 1990s. We are all delighted

with this advance which will mean that we can continue to improve the quality and scope of our services to clients," he said.

In the middle Eighties, the decision to incorporate a commercial property practice was often the first step towards becoming a publicly quoted company. But with so many of the firms that pursued that route now experiencing difficulties, flotation is definitely not on Conrad Ritblat's personal agenda.

David Pickard, chief executive, said: "Personally, I like it the way we have got it. It's all our own. We won't be raising any new money for the very simple reason that we don't

need any new money. What this change provides is a management structure that will allow everyone to grow, particularly some of our younger people. It will reward people and keep them committed."

Despite his enthusiasm for the new management structure, Mr Pickard is realistic about the problems still facing the property industry: "I think it is going to be very hard," he said. "This year could be every bit as hard as last year. You've only got to look out of the window to see agents' boards up everywhere. Instructions are coming in, but it's turning them into fees that is difficult."

Export workers invited to join travel contest

By OUR BUSINESS STAFF

WORKERS at exporting companies can send themselves abroad on holiday in a competition organised by the Department of Trade and Industry and National Westminster Bank.

Employers could also benefit by jetsetting staff overseas customers and return with valuable information to improve the quality of their

company's product or service. All non-managerial staff involved in the production of export goods or services can take part and winners will be awarded travel grants of up to £2,000 each to enable them to visit the customers of their choice.

Last year's winners visited such far-flung places as Hong Kong, Greece and Africa. Peter Wanstall, managing director of JPW Loudspeakers,

of Plymouth, whose employee Spencer Kingdom visited markets in Singapore, Australia, New Zealand and Los Angeles, said: "All of our export customers are well established with us and their names are familiar to all our employees on the factory floor. The travel award enabled one of our longest-serving employees to put a face to their names."

Mr Kingdom said: "My

three-week trip has enabled me to travel, and given me a far greater understanding of the running of our business and overseas sales."

Fellow globetrotter Kevin Gardner, production foreman at Micron Sprayers in Herefordshire, described his visit to Mali as "the trip of a lifetime".

The closing date for entries is February 28, with 15 awards available.

SMALLER COMPANIES

Fairey shrugs off recession

SHARES in Fairey Group, now at 304p, have come off a 12-month high of 325p but should be considered a core holding among small engineering companies.

Analysts expect this specialist engineer, which has interests in electronics, aerospace and defence, to maintain profits at just under £14 million before tax in the year just ended (£14.6 million).

This represents a considerable achievement for a company operating in sectors that have been severely depressed during the recession. The situation was not helped by the government's decision to cancel the eighth batch of Tornado aircraft, which has adversely affected Fairey's aerospace business.

The company, however, moved swiftly in response to this setback, relocating the aerospace and defence business from west London to Staffordshire, and selling the vacant property for £9 million, a disposal completed just ahead of the year end. The restructuring was master-

The company boasted net cash of £9.8 million at the half year, leaving it well placed to fund an upturn in demand and to make acquisitions.

Lower interest rates and the \$11.5 million (£6.2 million) acquisition of LaserMike from Bunnell will partly offset the benefit of the property disposal and a reduction in interest receivable will account for the small reduction in profits at the year end.

At 304p the shares trade on a prospective p/e of under 12, an undemanding rating.

MARTIN BARROW

THE TIMES

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Baltic states on road to economic freedom

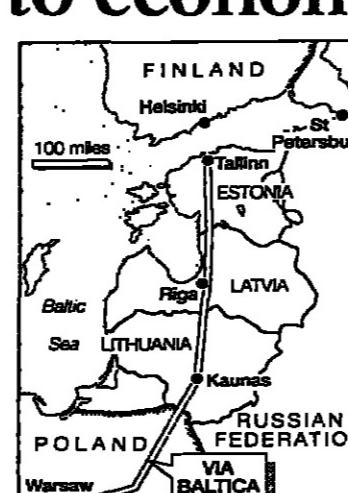
A new highways project could radically improve the Baltic states' trading links with Europe, Colin Narbrough reports

ESTONIA, Latvia and Lithuania are reinforcing their independence from the former Soviet Union with a highway project, Via Baltica, that ends the focus on Moscow and creates a north-south axis linking the Baltic states directly to central and western Europe.

The project could cost up to £1.5 billion if proposals for a western European standard motorway from Tallinn, the Estonian capital, to the Polish-Lithuanian border are approved by the Baltic states.

Infrastructure improvements are crucial first steps for the decrepit economies of the collapsed Soviet empire. The Via Baltica can, however, also be seen as part of the competition between the Baltic states' western neighbours, the Scandinavians and Germans, for influence in an emerging market of 8 million people.

In the inter-war years, before the Hitler-Stalin pact that handed the Baltic states to the Soviet Union, Germany was the dominant economic and political power in the Baltic, a position Germany is likely to seek to re-establish when it has coped with reunification. But the Nordic countries have been quick to



terminal in Estonia to supply the Baltic states' road network, including the Via Baltica, with surfacing material.

Neste has opened three service stations in Estonia and plans ten more along the Via Baltica in 1992 to provide the high grade fuels needed by western motorists.

About £70 million is needed to bring the highway road surface markings and signs up to western standards. Mr Miettinen hopes the ideal completion date for the initial phase of the project is

1993. Expanding the road into a motorway by 2010 would cost between £1 billion and £1.5 billion, depending on labour costs in the Baltic states. Infrastructure projects should be readily financed by international agencies, such as the World Bank, but a Baltic Investment Bank, underwritten by the Nordic states, is also planned.

Tauno Tiusanen, professor of eastern European economics at Glasgow Business School, believes the "natural historic pressure" of the Germans in the Baltic means an economic attack is inevitable. However, with Germany's costly unification process still in full swing, he sees an opportunity for the Nordic countries to establish a firm foothold in the Baltic states.

Greater St Petersburg, a region of 6 million people, is also interested in the Via Baltica. Joining St Petersburg to the highway would give increased economic justification for investment in this route.

Martti Miettinen, co-ordinator of the Via Baltica project, is managing director of Viaset, part of Viatek, the infrastructure planners responsible for Finland's motorway network. Viatek, Lemminkainen, the construction group, and Neste, the state-owned oil and chemicals corporation, have been the driving forces behind the scheme.

Neste has agreed to a joint venture with the Estonians to build an oil terminal in Estonia next summer. Nynas Petroleum, the Swedish company, is already building a bitumen

Lessons dawn on retailers

This week brings tidings on the all-important Christmas trading period from a bevy of British retailers. Boots will put out a detailed statement giving percentage increases for the various divisions either today or tomorrow. Dixons will quantify the Santa factor when it announces its results on Wednesday. But the numbers the City is waiting for will come at the end of the week from Ratners Group, the retailer for whom Christmas is crucial, and this Christmas more than most. Speculation is mounting that unless the period was spectacularly good, which seems unlikely, Ratners will be forced into talks with its bankers on its loan covenants.

Time was when that would have spelt disaster for a company. Breaching covenants was akin to mugging your banker and a sign of financial indiscipline. These days it is relatively commonplace, particularly in the retail sector, and banks are resigned to renegotiating covenants especially where companies are not in need of a refinancing. Renegotiating covenants does not come cheaply, and it is not beyond the banks to ask for higher interest charges, management changes and enforced asset disposals in return for their continued backing.

Nor is 1992 likely to bring much cheer. It is beginning to dawn on the retail sector that when this recession is over, its problems may not be. A return to the boom days of the mid-Eighties may never happen. Retailers who relied on over-expansion and customers with high disposable incomes to disguise sloppy management and slack cost control have smartened up their act. Flair, one-man bands and retail magic are out. Management systems, cost controls and corporate governance are in. For shareholders, this is no bad thing. As sights are adjusted downwards and steady growth replaces overnight wonder stocks, the retail sector is beginning to realise that the worst thing that could happen to it would be a return to the boom days of the last decade.

Engineering woes

Engineering was once a very British skill. Nascent industrial giants Germany and Japan beat their brightest and best to Britain in the last century to study our engineering craft. Alas, our relative decline in the industry, even in the Eighties of this century, suggests a deep-seated malaise persists that is more than our industrial companies alone can cure. Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, will probably be too distracted by his problems with the whole economy to give full attention to engineering when he chairs the National Economic Development Council on Wednesday.

After a return to modest surplus in trade in engineering last year, 1992 is expected to bring a return to deficit as we emerge from recession. The end to East-West confrontation is undermining the prospects for our star performer, aerospace. The rising sun of the car industry, by courtesy of Japan, has developed a pallor. Not only has output growth in British engineering underperformed and lost market share to its rivals abroad, it has also underperformed the rest of British industry and the economy in general since the Seventies, despite the biggest labour shakeout of any leading economy and dwindling union power. With managers free to manage, Britain's engineering industry, which still accounts for two fifths of our manufacturing output, has yet to deliver the goods. City short-termism and the government's macro-economic failures surely provide but a partial excuse.

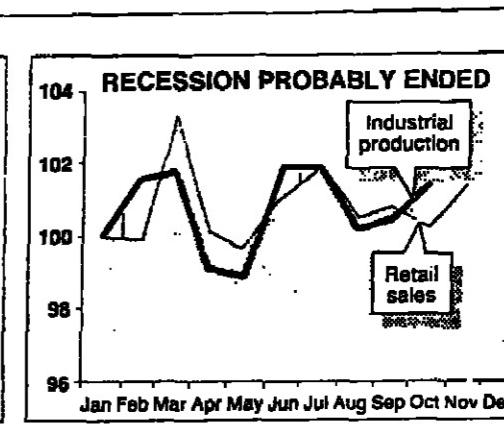
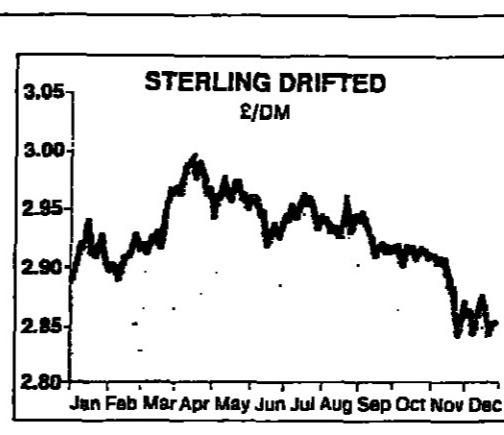
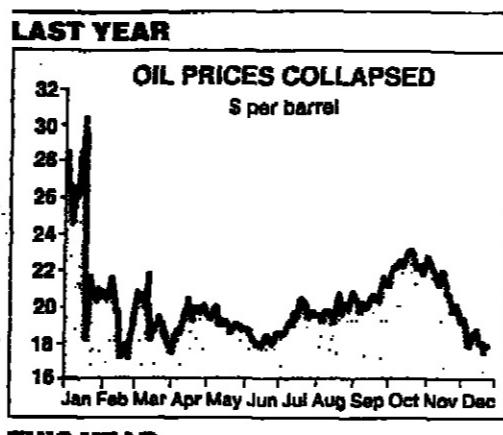
Anatole Kaletsky, reflecting on the closeness of his economic forecasts for last year, predicts the 1992 outcome

If, like most people around the world these days, you feel that seasonal good cheer is hardly appropriate for the beginning of 1992, think back to the beginning of last year. Economic forecasters were vying with one another to predict a recession that would be deeper and longer than any that had gone before.

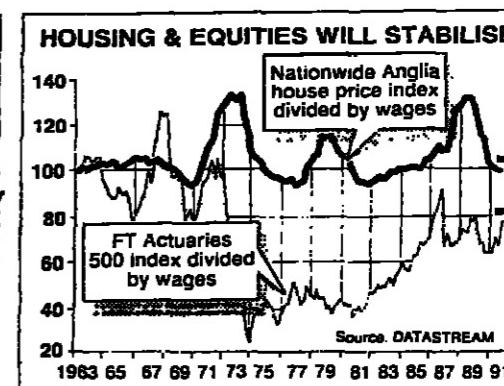
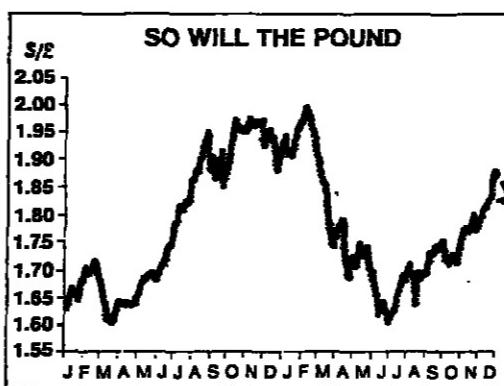
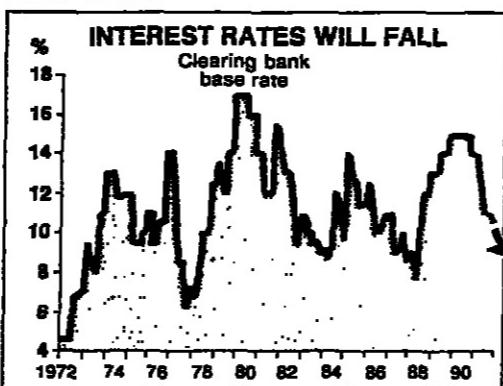
At that time, I felt the gloom was overdone, at least for the festive season, so I devoted this column to four "unashamedly cheerful predictions" for 1991: that oil prices would fall abruptly as soon as war began in Iraq; that capitalist reforms would continue in the Soviet Union even if the military intervention; that sterling would strengthen as interest rates were cut but fall back ahead of the election; and that the recession would end sooner than expected. The first three hit fairly near the mark and there was a good excuse for missing out on the fourth, so I will repeat the exercise and take a stab at some guesses about 1992.

However, before examining these in greater detail, let me give my excuse for missing out on the recession forecast last year. I said the recession would prove shorter than "many pessimists were expecting" because "anti-recession policies will continue throughout 1992". Fortunately, the last phrase suggests a plan in mitigation that is of great relevance to the prospects for 1992. I assumed that Mr Major would have the prospect of losing the election and if Mr Major does not bring the Treasury to its senses by then, the electorate and the financial market will see to it that Neil Kinnock does. Combining this observation with some elementary economics leads to the final forecast:

■ Short-term interest rates will fall to 7 or 8 per cent by the end of the year. The political case is clear. Even if Mr Major is not moved by the prospect of losing the election, Mr Kinnock will be by the need to consolidate his minority government and secure a working majority in a new election in 1993. To do this, he will need to end the stagnation in the economy. Given the terror in the electorate and the market about Labour's propensity to borrow and spend, monetary easing will be the safest option. It will also be the right policy for the economy. In every past economic cycle, interest rates have fallen to 8 per cent or less before recovery was fully



THIS YEAR



government's intentions, rather than any mysterious economic disturbance connected with debt levels and house prices that thwarted my, and many other, predictions of recovery in 1991.

This leads us to the prospect for the year ahead. Is it possible that the government's lack of an instinct of self-preservation, to say nothing of its inability to make rational economic judgments, will continue throughout 1992? Fortunately, the answer is no.

By July, there really will be an election and if Mr Major does not bring the Treasury to its senses by then, the electorate and the financial market will see to it that Neil Kinnock does. Combining this observation with some elementary economics leads to the final forecast:

To suppose that last year's recession could be succeeded by adequate growth while interest rates remained above 10 per cent was probably never realistic. For a new government, unfettered by the need to justify the blunders of the past five years, the long-term argument for low interest rates should be even more compelling. If it is an overhang of debts that threatens economic growth, then cuts in interest rates are the rational response. If inadequate investment is the obstacle to Britain's prosperity and inter-

there appears to be no escape. Its monetary tightening is going to cause a severe recession in Germany and much of Europe in the final year for implementing the 1992 programme and at a time when Germany's bulging fiscal deficit desperately needs the relief of rapid growth. Yet the Bundesbank's policies will not succeed in deterring German trade unions from demanding higher pay. The average German's real pay rose only 0.8 per cent annually in the Eighties, compared with 2.7 per cent in the Seventies and 5.5 per cent in the previous decade. As a result, the share of wages in Germany's national income has fallen to the lowest level recorded in any major capitalist country in the past 30 years. The unions are now determined to turn the tables on their employers and the confusion over economic policy after reunification has created a leadership vacuum in Germany, which the Bundesbank's blustering is unlikely to fill. The bank's reputation will, therefore, be severely dented in the year ahead, whether it sticks to its guns and causes a recession and fiscal problem or cuts interest rates and loses its anti-inflation credibility.

In the medium term, however, the Bundesbank's loss could be the European Community's gain. If German monetary policy forces the ERM into a realignment, the rest of Europe is likely to insist that this will be the last such shake-up among the currencies. It may also win a firm undertaking from the German government to lock exchange rates irrevocably, at least with those of other core countries in the ERM, from that point on. Instead of delaying monetary union, a realignment this year might, therefore, make it a virtual fait accompli.

My last prediction is more parochial. A further sharp fall in interest rates, combined with the stimulus to industry and employment from a lower exchange rate, should be sufficient to revive the housing market, even if there are no extra support measures in the Budget, which there may be. The fundamental reason for confidence about the housing market is not connected with economic policy. It is illustrated in the chart.

A further sharp fall in interest rates, combined with the stimulus to industry and employment from a lower exchange rate, should revive the housing market

national competitiveness, as Labour believes. Low interest rates are again the answer.

The Treasury's standard argument for continuing deflation — that monetary easing could actually raise long-term interest rates — will cut no ice. Long-term interest rates are unimportant in the British economy.

However, what about the ERM constraint on monetary policy and sterling? My second and third predictions are connected. The pound will fall against the yen and dollar. The one major currency that may providentially turn out to be as weak as sterling is the mark. This is because

in Germany are quick to recognise the recurrent attack of Eurosclerosis that could face the entire continent in 1992 and 1993, it is just possible that German interest rates and the mark will fall quickly enough to avoid a realignment for sterling. If the mark remains strong, however, the pound is bound to be deviated by the second half of 1992, when all three election pledges about the ERM will be rendered null and void by the manifest economic mess in Germany. Either way, sterling should fall against the non-European currencies. Britain would benefit from such a devaluation more than other ERM countries because 38 per cent of Britain's exports are sold outside Europe, compared with only 27 per cent from Germany and 29 per cent from France.

In Germany, meanwhile, the Bundesbank has backed itself into a trap from which

"Almost without exception there is only one way to make a great deal of money ... and that is owning one's own business..." Paul Getty

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THE TIMES CITY DIARY



Jordan in the wings

MICHAEL Jordan, chairman and senior partner of Cork Gully and, as such, king of the insolvency men, is unable to become involved in the carving up of any facet of the late Robert Maxwell's empire because Coopers & Lybrand Deloitte, Cork Gully's parent, was the auditor. Jordan - who draws the philosophical conclusion: "It takes a big man to make a big mess, little men make small messes" - has had to follow the saga from the wings, and is now calling for legislation to ensure that pension funds are independently managed. "Pension funds should be sacrosanct," he says. "They should not be within a million miles of the management of a company. They should be independently managed and not a penny should go into the company." While the government is pontificating on such legislation, he believes they should also do something to safeguard deposits from members of the public as down payments for goods, not yet received. "There is no legislation currently dealing with deposits and I am concerned that we might see another massive failure where people who have paid deposits, for furniture or whatever, lose their money. The widows and orphans really must be protected."

Life begins at 40

LYNN Ruddick, who celebrates her 40th birthday on Friday, will start her 41st year with a new job. After more than 11 years with Phillips & Drew Fund Management, latterly as a director and responsible for client relation-

ships, Ruddick has resigned. With effect from January 14, she will become a director of Mercury Asset Management, the fund management arm of SG Warburg, which, with total assets of \$40 billion, is the biggest pension fund manager in Britain and twice the size of PPFM, its closest rival. Ruddick, a qualified accountant, who continues to put her training to good use as the honorary treasurer of Sign, a campaign for dear people, will be part of MAM's expanding marketing team, led by Colin Clark. Her brief will be to market its services to UK pension funds and consultants.

Loveless mourned
MARKET watchers who follow South African shares are mourning the loss of Albert Loveless, a popular and respected analyst who died on Friday, aged 51, after a short illness. Loveless, who covered South African stocks for Smith New Court had been in hospital since late autumn. "Albert's Digger notes", as his South African circulars became known, were sought after in the Square Mile and he was frequently consulted by other City brokerages. Ray Davis, a director of Smith's international department, who worked with Loveless at Simon & Coates in the late Seventies and lured him to Smiths in 1984, says: "He always had plenty of time for everybody." Loveless will also be missed in his home community of Shirley, Croydon, where he did a great deal for the local church. He leaves a wife, Rita, and two daughters.

CAROL LEONARD

Starting over
From Mr Aldo Habib
Sir, I read with interest the article by Peter Victor (January 1) regarding new companies being formed in spite of record numbers of firms folding. I am wondering if Dun & Bradstreet are able to list the new companies being formed by people whose companies went into liquidation previously, and how many times.

I feel sorry for the many creditors and others involved who have lost money when ruthless company directors can start new companies after going into liquidation, often more than once.

Yours faithfully,
ALDO HABIB,
64 The Ridgeway, NW11.

element in attracting inward investment to Britain.

The IOD strongly advocates these reforms and believes the proposals in the Green Paper are a logical next step, offering greater protection for employers, members of trades unions and the general public. Indeed, we urged the government to go further and establish legally binding procedural agreements in essential public services to minimise the risk of disruption in these services.

The reforms introduced during the 1980s made a significant contribution to the more stable industrial relations climate which the UK now enjoys and were a key element in attracting inward investment to Britain.

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Retired council worker Mr BH makes £60 to £100 a day - at home - introducing people to his hobby and letting them try the equipment.

Retired clergyman John M supplements his pension to the tune of £150 a week using his knowledge of the needs of gardeners and cooks.

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REPORTING THIS WEEK

Securicor expected to deliver smaller profits

Securicor Group, headed by Roger Wiggs, is expected to show a decline in full-year profits when it reports on Thursday. Kleinwort Benson is forecasting a pre-tax figure of £31.5 million compared with £31.9 million last time.

The security-to-parcels delivery group has been affected by depressed demand on the parcels delivery side because of the recession and lower than expected profits from its 40 per cent stake in Cellnet, the cellular radio telephone operator.

Earnings per share are predicted to fall to 15.4p (22.5p), but the dividend should be held at 4.1p.

Security Services, Securicor's subsidiary, is likely to report final pre-tax profits of £19.8 million against £36.1 million, according to Kleinwort.

Earnings per share are forecast at 12.1p (19.7p), but the dividend should be held at 4.1p.

TODAY

Interviews: Carlo Engineering Group, Platignum.

Final: AG Barr, Soundtrack.

Economic statistics: Major British bank group quarterly analysis of lending (September-November); London sterling certificates of deposit (November).

WEDNESDAY

Dixons announces its interim figures to mid-November.

The electrical retailing chain, which owns Currys and Supersavers, will also provide the City with its first real indication of whether the much-hoped-for Christmas spending spree materialised.

Stanley Kalms, Dixons' chairman, issued a warning at September's annual meeting that there was no clear evidence of an upturn in the United Kingdom markets for consumer electronics and white goods.

However, he is likely to be relatively optimistic about Christmas trading, despite unveiling lower first-half profits.

Nick Bubb, at Morgan Stanley, the American securities house, expects Dixons to

announce pre-tax profits of £19 million, down from £27 million last time. Both sets of figures include a £5 million writeback of warranty provisions. Market forecasts range from £13 million to £25 million. The dividend should be held at 1.6p.

The figures will reflect heavier losses in America and the depressed consumer spending on both sides of the Atlantic. On a brighter note, Dixons, where Currys now accounts for about 25 per cent of group sales, is expected to have benefited from an increased market share.

Silo, the group's American electrical retailing operation, is expected to suffer losses of between £3 million and £10 million, up from £2.3 million last time.

Profits from property are expected to be well down and further news is awaited on the group's European property operations, as well as the tax charge, which may rise to 30 per cent for the year.

Mr Bubb expects Christmas sales to have been "pretty pleasing", with camcorders and computer games thought to have been a "storming success". He is also optimistic

on longer term prospects, expecting benefits from products in the pipeline, such as interactive compact discs.

The balance sheet remains strong and the group is "extremely well geared" to economic recovery in Britain and America.

Hadleigh Industries Group, the automotive and engineering group headed by Tony Cookson, is expected to incur a small first-half loss.

This compares with a taxable profit of £1.1 million last time. However, Hadleigh should be over the worst and County NatWest forecasts a full-year profit of £300,000 (£1.81 million). Universal Bulk Handling, the group's steel container manufacturing subsidiary, is understood to have continued to perform relatively well, and there should be signs of progress at A1.

Peter Caldwell, a motors analyst at BZW, expects a fairly flat performance from Reg Vandy, with interim pre-tax profits of the Wearside car dealer not likely to top last time's £2.1 million. However,

Mr Caldwell says this will be

a good performance compared with others in the

sector as the six months to October were "pretty traumatic" for the motor industry.

Attention will be on current and future prospects, although there are no signs that lower interest rates have fed through to higher demand.

Interviews: Banks (Sidney C), Bespak, Dixons, Goode Durant, Hadleigh Industries Group, Savory & Hardy (Reg), Williamson Tint Holdings, Alexander Holdings, M & G Dual Trust.

Economic statistics: Overseas travel and tourism (October); advance energy statistics (November); cyclical indicators for the UK economy (October - final estimate).

THURSDAY

Interviews: Druck Holdings, Jones, Stroud (Holdings), Symonds Engineering.

Finals: Dewhurst, Securicor Group, Security Services, Tread.

Economic statistics: New vehicle registrations (November); housing starts and completions (November); house renovations (third quarter).

FRIDAY

Interviews: British Bloodstock Agency, First Spanish Investment, Pepe Group.

Finals: Unconfirmed.

Economic statistics: Usable steel production (December).

PHILIP PANGALOS

Steering through recession: Roger Wiggs is likely to maintain Securicor's dividend

Recovery could be spiked by banking unrest

The new year claims of economic recovery from the prime minister and Robin Leigh-Pemberton, the Governor of the Bank of England, all ring hollow when contrasted with the rumbling crisis in the UK banking system. The crisis has played a big role in preventing economic recovery and is likely to continue to do so while interest rates remain high.

Its most obvious macro-economic manifestation is the sharp decline in bank lending and broad monetary growth, now 4.6 per cent and 4.9 per cent respectively (last three months annualised). Behind these macro figures lie many more concerning micro data from the banks themselves. Some analysts expect bad debt provisions to total £5.4 billion by the UK's four clearing banks in 1991; at least one of the four is paying a liquidating dividend.

The phase of mega-defaults, epitomised by names such as Polly Peck, is giving



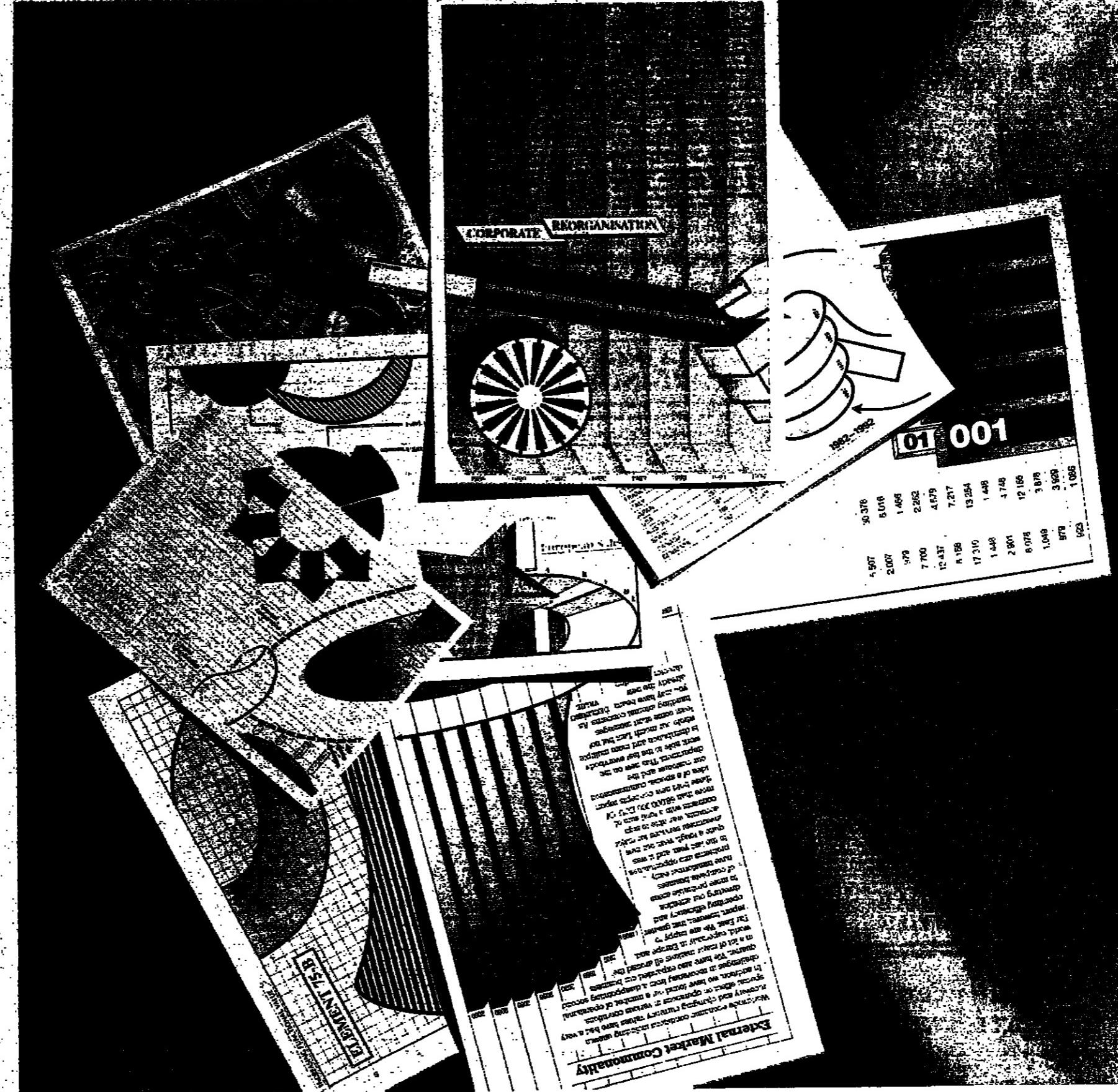
Leigh-Pemberton: hollow ring

way to the less dramatic, but quantitatively more important, losses on thousands of smaller loans. These problems strike at the morale of bank loan officers, who become ultra-cautious. They also eat into the growth, or even the level, of the banks' capital, when the banks have less than 12 months to comply with the 8 per cent capital-to-assets ratio demanded by the Bank for International Settlements (BIS).

A request last year by the chairman of one of the clearers for relaxation of these rules was rejected by the Bank of England. Since many foreign banks are suffering similar or worse difficulties, the result must be a severe constraint on the ability of the banking system to expand credit in the UK. The weakness of the housing market implies analogous difficulties for some building societies. It is not that the banks will be unable to meet loan demand in a recovery. Rather, the danger is that there will be no recovery because of the banks' inability to finance it.

Rising defaults, and a tightening of the banks' attitude to lending, are a normal part of the transmission mechanism of monetary policy. The problem is abnormally severe in the current cycle, partly because of the constraints of the BIS rules, and partly because interest rates are being held high by sterling's membership of

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Lawrence and Tufnell bowl touring team to victory after Hick rediscovers his confidence with the bat at a home from home

England make an encouraging opening

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT, IN HAMILTON

EARLY tour form can be notoriously unreliable, but England could hardly have performed with more conviction than they showed in Hamilton this weekend. On Saturday they amassed 419 runs and lost only three wickets; yesterday, they disposed of the New Zealand Emerging Players for 153 to win, ten minutes before tea, by an innings and 105 runs.

The manner of victory was emphatic almost to the point of embarrassment and yet, at least on paper, this opposition was not to be patronised. It comprised two Test players and any number who are expected to graduate to that level before long. The team gave a glimpse of New Zealand's future and, to the unconvinced dismay of many, it was obliterated.

Ian Smith, who captained the home side, suggested later that his players had been overawed, which might well explain their timid batting on the first day if not their shoddy bowling on the second, when England's batsmen were eventually able to help themselves. Gooch and Hick both made centuries and then retired, perhaps more because it seemed self-indulgent to stay than to give some one else a chance.

So little had avoided the middle of the bar in England's innings that the agenda for the final day seemed fixed: frustration, with a draw the likely result. Instead, the speed of Lawrence dismantled the opening stand in his first four overs and the spin of Tufnell did the rest.

Bowling unchanged for more than three hours,

Tufnell took five for 66, figures which would have been still better but for two blunders on an otherwise immaculate fielding display. Gooch, of all people, put down catches, at short extra-cover and mid-off, who would expect to take with comfort 19 times out of 20. Tufnell, castigated by the England captain for his incompetence in the field last winter, may come to see the ironical side of this: Gooch, by his expression, already had.

Four playing days into the tour, Tufnell has taken ten wickets at 12.50 runs apiece. He has not been flattered. From his first over in Auckland he has bowled with control of both technique and temperament to augment his undoubted flair. Twice already, he has bowled the decisive spell of a match and Mickey Stewart, his team manager, believes there is plenty more to come.

"He will get wickets on any sort of pitch," Stewart said. "He is that type of bowler. He has got a good attitude because he is very competitive and he really enjoys bowling. He is still short on experience and finger spinners are usually past 30 when they reach their peak. Philip is only 25, so nothing is beyond him."

Like a young wine, rough but full of promise, Tufnell was put away to mature by Stewart and Gooch after his first tour of Australia. Arguably, they left him in the cellar longer than was required but the tactic cannot now be condemned. It has had the desired effect of rounding and reforming a character whose natural gifts did not include

confidence. The same applies to Graeme Hick, visibly relieved by Saturday's unbeaten 129 in the town which was his home for two winters when he played for Northern Districts. His fifth century on this ground also created a curiosity as he became one of the few men to make centuries for and against an England touring team. More important, however, was his effect on his confidence, which took such a battering against West Indies last summer.

Confidence has never been an obvious problem for "Syd" Lawrence. It has aptly been said of him that one could walk onto a ground when he was bowling and not know whether he had taken nought for 100 or five for 20; such is his constant, shirt-busting commitment.

Yesterday, on a pitch which gave him no encouragement, he was sharp enough to beat both openers for pace and straight enough to barely permit an attacking stroke. It was, all in all, another heartening day for England. The tour, to date, has been full of them. Stewart, properly cautious, called the situation "very satisfactory". Ian Smith, with a little more feeling, said: "If I was in charge of them, I would be pretty happy right now."



Eyecatching: Tufnell completes a caught and bowled, one of five wickets he claimed yesterday

HAMILTON SCOREBOARD

NEW ZEALAND EMERGING PLAYERS: First Innings 176 for 8 dec (C Z Harris 80)

Second Innings		
B R Hartland c Russell b Lawrence	0	101
B Pocock c & b Lawrence	1	101
L G Horne c Gooch b Lawrence	26	101
J T C Vaughan c & b Tufnell	14	101
C J Harris c & b Tufnell	14	101
D W Richardson c & b Tufnell	8	101
H D Smith c & b Tufnell	8	101
M H Richardson c Russell b Tufnell	13	101
M L Su'a c & b Tufnell	16	101
C P Heron c & b Tufnell	13	101
M J Penman absent hurt	0	101
Extras (b, lb, nb, r) 7	14	101
Total	153	101
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-2, 1-3, 3-42, 4-63, 5-84, 6-90, 7-114, 8-141, 9-153		
Bowling: Lawrence 125-152, DeFreitas		

103-24-0; Lewis 11-53-37-2 (nb7), Tufnell

ENGLAND AND THE WINDIES: First Innings

G A Gooch retired hurt	0	101
A J Stewart c Smith b Pringle	0	101
H F C Russell c & b Vaughan	0	101
R J Tindall c & b Tufnell	129	101
R A Smith c Smith b Su'a	88	101
M R Pramprakash not out	0	101
C Tavaré not out	22	101
Extras (b, lb, nb, r) 17	434	101
Total (4 wkt dec)	434	101
P A J DeFreitas D V Lawrence and P C R Tufnell did not bat		
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-2, 1-24, 3-204, 4-367.		
BOWLING: Su'a 24-2-96-1 (nb1); Pringle 27-5-95-2; Vaughan 27-7-71; Richardson 15-6-88-1; Harris 16-3-70-4 (nb1)		

103-24-0; Lewis 11-53-37-2 (nb7), Tufnell

103-24-0; Lewis 11-53-37

India take command
s record tumble

Coker sent off in a disappointing match studded with careless violence

Quins study video evidence

Harlequins
Bath 18

By DAVID HANNS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE decision by David Leslie, the Scottish referee, to send off Troy Coker in the second half of this, ultimately, disappointing game at the Stoop Memorial ground made the difference between Harlequins beating Bath for the first time in the Courage Clubs Championship, as opposed to the draw - two goals and two penalty goals each - with which they had to be dissatisfied.

The disappointment derives from the way in which two such well-equipped teams, who attracted a crowd of over 6,000 on Saturday, and a former international referee allowed a match of such high potential to drift downwards, into and out of deeds of careless violence. Coker, the Australian, lock who played No. 8 in the World Cup final, can hardly complain of his dismissal but his club officials were left smirking that he was the only player to have been so sanctioned.

The long-running feud between Moore and Dawe, the two hookers, did nothing to help. Hardly five minutes had passed before Moore's nose was bloodied and at every Harlequins lineout Dawe placed himself so close to his rival that he practically obstructed the throw-in.

Coker was sent off for "striking an opponent" after appearing to run straight over the top of Webb and Pears, who were on the ground; he will now miss the difficult league match at Northampton as well as the cup match with Wasps. But Harlequins' officials want to see the videotape of a game in which the Hounds, the England centre, also left the field with an eye injury before they decide whether there is a need for internal discipline, or whether they were as much sinned against as sinning.

Halil received a wound on his right eyebrow requiring five stitches from a boot accidentally flipped upwards in a tackle. The cornea of the eye is bruised but his vision is impaired only by heavy bruising below the eye and he will be fit to take his place in England's colours on January 18; however, his departure ten minutes before the interval, resurfaced the Harlequins



In the nick of time: Barnes boots the ball away a split second before Russell dives in to block the kick

backs with Thompson coming off his wing and Short, a scrum half, joining the game.

Up to that point Harlequins were playing like men possessed. Pears's second penalty gave them an 18-0 lead and there was no way that Bath, who had yet to reach the opposing 22, could get into the game. The splendour of Harlequins' game encompassed driving forward play and the use of a potent back division; they scored two tries and might have had more, but Leslie chose to award five-metre

scrums when Russell (twice) and Coker were over the line. Harlequins were, however, awarded a penalty try when Bath were judged to have dropped the front row of a scrum.

Bath received a penalty try when Harlequins took a wheeling five-metre scrum down, and from that stage Bath chivvied their way back; when all else is lost Bath have always their huge work-rate and it did not desert them now, players such as Haag and Clarke doing themselves no end of good in the process.

When Coker left Redman found a freedom he had not previously enjoyed and Langhorn and Russell found themselves extended. Even so Bath's back play, with Guscott absent and Barnes carrying a cracked rib, looked so plain and Harlequins' defence so sound that victory for the home side - and with it leadership of the first division - seemed a reality until Ubogo drove two minutes into injury-time, and the backs took play left for de Glanville to squeeze into the corner. Webb, whose two

penalties had nibbled away the lead even if his decision-making with ball in hand was less acute, kicked the awkward conversion which keeps Bath in touch, just with the league leaders.

SCORERS: Harlequins: Tries: Carington, Conner; Penalties: Pears (2); Penalties: Pears (2); Bath: Tries: de Glanville, penalty try; Conversions: Webb (2); Penalties: Webb (2).

APPROXIMATE TEAM LINEUPS: Bath: M Underwood, M Waddington, W Carington, S Holden (rep. B Short), G Thompson, K Bray, R Glanville, J Leonardi, B Moore, A Mullins, M Skinner, J Russell, T Pugh, P Tamblyn, D Williams, J Williams, L Hart, L Rix, L Smith, S Snell, P Stevens, D Muir, J Jenkins.

LEICESTER: Tries: Hackney (3); Underwood (2), Ley, Richard, Conner, Try; Hennessy (1); Conner (1); Penalties: Mullin (2).

LIVERPOOL: Tries: Ley, S Harrison, A Key, I Lewis, S Lomax, S Morris, A Morris, A Parker, C Tressler, D Gerforth, J Wells, M Johnson, M Poole, N Beck (rep. S Povall), D Richards.

WELSH: Tries: Hanes, A Koenig, S Radford, C Tressler, D Gerforth, J Wells, M Johnson, M Poole, N Beck (rep. S Povall), D Richards.

ROSSLYN PARK: Tries: Graves, S Hunter, K Hayes, G Laike, G Griffiths, P Rees, R Morgan, S Morris, C Dore, M Hermin, M Hamford, A Windo, J Hawke, R Phillips, P Aunton, N Scovens, D Sims, A Stanley, S Masters.

REFERENCES: A Savage (North Midlands).

Rugby's frailty exposed

Rugby 6
Saracens 6

By BARRY TROWBRIDGE

CONCERN among Rugby supporters that a change of personnel in their side's front five would weaken its hand proved justified as Saracens, with plenty to spare, eased home by a goal, a try and four penalty goals to two, penalty goals at Webb Ellis Road on Saturday.

Two points, from marches against Gloucester, Wasps and Rosslyn Park, neither reflected Rugby's positive start in the first division of the Courage Clubs Championship nor rewarded spells of superlative tight play, but there lies the key to the club's progress from fourth division north four seasons ago, and, with that vulnerable, so, it seems, are they.

Before Saturday, Tregigga, Brain, Revan, Fleetwood and Bowman had taken no prisoners in league games - even the traditional might of

Glover went offside at the ruck, Rudling opened the score. Almost immediately, Mapleton replied, but gradually the London side turned the screw and added a second penalty goal through Rudling, following sterling work by Tarbuck, and a try in the left-hand corner by Butler before half-time.

Butler linked with Davies and Tarbuck for a second try, three minutes after the break, and, having converted that, Rudling added two more penalty goals as Saracens eased down. Between those kicks, Mapleton landed a beauty for Rugby from 50 metres, but with their front five shackled, the game and points had long gone south.

SCORERS: Rugby: Penalty goals: Mapleton (2); Conversion: Rudling. Saracens: Penalties: Davies, Con. Brown; Points: Brown, Barber, Maesteg; Try: Wilson. Dropped goal: Williams.

WILDFIRE: Tries: Tregigga, P. Miller, J. Davies, S. Williams, S. P. Pugh, B. Davies, A. Rodts, G. Sosman, S. Williams, C. Tarbuck, M. Langley, L. Adamson, J. Caselli, R. Crowley. Referee: S Parry (Yorkshire).

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ROSSLYN PARK: Tries: Ley, S Harrison, A. Key, I. Lewis, S. Lomax, S. Morris, A. Morris, A. Parker, C. Tressler, D. Gerforth, J. Wells, M. Johnson, M. Poole, N. Beck (rep. S. Povall), D. Richards.

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BASKETBALL

Kingston's success frustrates officials

BY NICHOLAS HARLING

KINGSTON are about as popular among neutral basketball followers as Arsenal are in football terms, yet there were five Englishmen with extra cause for dismay when the Carlsberg League leaders reached yesterday's final of the World Invitation Club championships.

As soon as Kingston had completed their staggering recovery against New York All-Stars in the semi-final of the annual tournament, sponsored by Russell Athletic at Crystal Palace, the five all-leading referees, knew that their chance of being involved in the final were gone.

According to the regulations laid down by Fiba, the sport's governing body, games must have referees from neutral countries, so Kingston's match with CSKA Moscow went ahead last night with a German, Michael Trumpp, and a Swede, Lars Klaar, in charge.

For two of the English quintet, Alan Richardson and Trevor Pountain, the blow was softened not only by the fact that they had refereed previous men's finals, but by overseas trips to which they can look forward. Richardson, aged 43, who controlled France's recent game against a European select in Paris, is off to Barcelona for the Spanish club's European Championships Cup tie on Thursday against Caserio.

"Any referee worth his salt wants to do the final," he said.

HOCKEY

Unicorns stage a form reversal

FROM SYDNEY FRISKIN IN BARCELONA

AFTER a 6-1 defeat by El Cid on Saturday, Great Britain, playing under the name of Unicorns, recovered to defeat Real Club de Polo 4-1 in the Los Reyes tournament here yesterday.

Simon Nicklin was tried as a full back in the continuing process of finding a winning formula. But despite the pressure they exerted, Unicorns crossed over a goal down, the Spaniards having scored in the 22nd minute from a short corner converted by Fereira.

A much livelier second half transformed an embarrassing triumph. Two goals by Kerty put Unicorns right with the world. Garcia added the third almost on his own and the Ulsterman, Martin, converted the fifth short corner with a direct hit almost on time.

Saturday's drubbing by El Cid, effectively the Spanish national team, was the story of a side already chosen for

Sutton Coldfield trounced Gimnasia y Esgrima of Argentina 9-0 for their third successive victory which secured the women's trophy. English Lions also made sure of the men's veterans' trophy after their third win in a row.

RESULTS: Men: Portugal 2, Spain (Hon) 0; Real Club de Polo 0, Hounslow 1; Club de Campeo 2, Sutton Coldfield 1; Club de Pedralbes 1, El Cid, Leon 1; B. Salvadore 0, Atletico Guadalajara (Arg) 0; Jerez (Sp) 1, Gimnasia y Esgrima 5; B. Salvadore 1, Club de Pedralbes 0; Club de Gimnasia y Esgrima 2; Real Club de Polo 1; Unicorns 4, Pedralbes 0; Hounslow 2, El Cid 1; Club de Pedralbes 2, Club de Campeo 1; 3, Gimnasia y Esgrima 4; Los Olivos (Sp) 1; Sutton Coldfield 3; Club de Campo 3; Gimnasia y Esgrima 2; Club de Campeo 2; 2, Gimnasia y Esgrima 0; Sutton Coldfield 2; 2, Vitoria-Gasteiz (Ger) 2; Lions (Eng) 6, 5, 7; CD Leon 1; Club de Pedralbes 1; El Cid (Barcelona) 0; A. Alatier (Ger) 0; Lions 3, Pedralbes 0.

BADMINTON

BAE answers critics

THE Badminton Association of England (BAE) has responded to criticisms of its structure by Middlesex, which is inviting other countries to meet later this month and proposing a removal of many of the association's professional staff (Richard Eaton writes).

Middlesex apparently questioned the need for a chief executive, a director of coaching, a coaching manager or an events director, while the BAE says that this would return the sport to a "back garden social activity".

The rebellion has been caused partly by a sudden



Champion style: Vreni Schneider on her way to the 38th World Cup win of her career yesterday

Tomba extends his lead as Italy take slalom double

Kranjska Gora: Alberto Tomba won his third World Cup skiing slalom of the season yesterday, extending his lead in both the overall and slalom standings.

The day before, in the giant-slalom race here, Tomba had finished third, blaming a heavy cold and his over-cautious approach on the steep, icy course for defeat. But competing in his strongest discipline, and playing to a gallery packed with 5,000 adoring Italian fans, "La Bomba" put up a display to overwhelm the opposition.

After yesterday's first run, Tomba held a one-second advantage over second-placed Armin Bitner, of Germany, a huge lead in an event where mere hundredths often separate competitors. After another virtuous run, Tomba extended his lead to 1.78sec.

In third place was the Norwegian, Finn Christian Jagge, who had beaten Tomba in the slalom at Madonna di Campiglio last time

out. It was Tomba's fifth win of the season, and his third in five slaloms. He has finished second in both the other two.

"This will really make me keep my form until the Olympics next month," Tomba said.

Recovering from flu, Paul Accola, of Switzerland, finished fifth, one place behind giant Girardelli, and so, after the scores from the weekend's racing were added together, remains second to Tomba in the overall World Cup Cup standings.

Both men expect to close on Tomba after the downhill and super-giant slalom here, which the Italian will not ski.

On Saturday, the World Cup leader had had to give best to his team mate, Sergio Bergamelli, in the giant slalom.

Starting from 34th position, Bergamelli, 21, from Alzano in Lombardy, won by 2.22sec after leading by more than a second in the first leg.

Hans Pierer, 30, who has

been relegated to Switzerland's second team, finished second, with Tomba third.

It was enough for Tomba to maintain control of the giant-slalom section of the World Cup. Tomba showed no signs of disappointment over Bergamelli's win, boasting his young compatriot on to his shoulders in triumph.

Pierer, fastest in the second leg, said: "This is the best performance in my 11 years in the World Cup. But it was impossible to do anything against Bergamelli."

"When I finished the first leg I couldn't believe my time and thought it was a mistake," Bergamelli, a customs officer whose father is a ski instructor, said.

In the second leg I was determined not to lose that first place and put all I had into the run." (Reuters)

RESULTS: Giant slalom: 1, S. Bergamelli (Switz), 2m 18.1sec; 2, H. Pierer (Switz), 2m 40.3; 3, A. Tomba (Ital), 2m 20.9; 4, M. von Armin (Ger), 2m 21.5; 5, P. Accola (Switz), 2m 22.2; 6, O. C. Funseth (Nor), 2m 23.3; 7, P. Accola (Switz), 2m 21.7; 8, M. Schmid (Switz); 9, T. Bergamelli (Switz), 2m 22.2; 10, H. Pierer (Switz). Giant slalom World Cup standings (after 4 events): 1, Tomba, 340pts; 2, Accola, 283; 3, Pierer, 218; 4, Bergamelli, 182; 5, Schmid; 6, Accola; 7, Bergamelli; 8, Pierer; 9, Tomba; 10, Bergamelli; 11, Accola; 12, Bergamelli; 13, Pierer; 14, Accola; 15, Bergamelli; 16, Pierer; 17, Bergamelli; 18, Pierer; 19, Bergamelli; 20, Pierer; 21, Bergamelli; 22, Bergamelli; 23, Pierer; 24, Bergamelli; 25, Pierer; 26, Bergamelli; 27, Pierer; 28, Bergamelli; 29, Pierer; 30, Bergamelli; 31, Pierer; 32, Bergamelli; 33, Pierer; 34, Bergamelli; 35, Pierer; 36, Bergamelli; 37, Pierer; 38, Bergamelli; 39, Pierer; 40, Bergamelli; 41, Pierer; 42, Bergamelli; 43, Pierer; 44, Bergamelli; 45, Pierer; 46, Bergamelli; 47, Pierer; 48, Bergamelli; 49, Pierer; 50, Bergamelli; 51, Pierer; 52, Bergamelli; 53, Pierer; 54, Bergamelli; 55, Pierer; 56, Bergamelli; 57, Pierer; 58, Bergamelli; 59, Pierer; 60, Bergamelli; 61, Pierer; 62, Bergamelli; 63, Pierer; 64, Bergamelli; 65, Pierer; 66, Bergamelli; 67, Pierer; 68, Bergamelli; 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Emperor Fountain to open account at second attempt

HALKOPOUS and Emperor Fountain, two above-average recruits from the Flat, can gain their first hurdles victories this afternoon at Wolverhampton and Lingfield Park respectively.

Emperor Fountain failed to win in five starts on the Flat for James Toller last year but ran some fine races in defeat when chasing home Terminus in the group three East Of Sefon Stakes at Newmarket in the spring and when a close third to Mohican Girl in a listed race at Headquarters in the autumn.

Making his hurdling debut for Kath Watwyn at Wolverhampton on Boxing Day, Emperor Fountain was sent off 11-8 joint-favourite but, having been held up early on, failed to get to grips with market rival Able Player and was allowed to come home in his own time eventually finishing fifth.

As that was his first experience of hurdling and his first race of any kind for eight weeks, substantial improvement can be expected today and he may have too much pace for Woody Will and Landyap, who look the pick of the opposition in the Horley Maiden Hurdle.

Halkopoulos, winner of last year's Magaret Cup at York for Mark Tompkins, made his debut over hurdles this afternoon after Kempton.

Mellor can continue re-vival with Way Of Life

Furlong's £200,000 challenge

NOEL Furlong, undeterred by the fall of Destriero at Leopardstown over Christmas, has thrown down a challenge to another big-time Irish gambler, P. McManus (Our Irish Racing Correspondent writes).

McManus has been investing heavily in National Hunt horses recently and Furlong wants Destriero to run against anything that

succeeds of juvenile hurdlers against their elders. This pattern was repeated in the Int 10,000 Slaney Hurdle at Naas on Saturday when two four-year-olds, Irish Peace and Kilcash, proved too good for the more mature runners. Irish Peace beat his rival by four lengths but Liam Browne, the winning trainer, is unlikely to send Irish Peace to Cheltenham this season.

2.40 TEMPEST JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE (£1,375: 2m) (13)

MANDARIN 1.10 Man From Mars, 1.40 Pay To Dream, 2.10 Elite-Ess. 2.40 Gynarak Sovereign, 3.10 Pandessa, 3.40 Tristan's Comet.

THUNDERER 1.10 Man From Mars, 1.40 Fresh-Mint, 2.10 King Of Shadows, 2.40 Gynarak Sovereign, 3.10 Pandessa, 3.40 Peak Diving.

GOING: STANDARD

1.10 AS YOU LIKE IT NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (£1,255: 2m) (6 runners)

1 215P MAN FROM MARS 54 (BF,F) P Hobbs 6-11-12
2 305 BRIGHT BOUNCE 30 R Hakeemoff S 10-1-12
3 310 ENTERTAINMENT 9 (F) P Bruce 6-10-11
4 4024 DEEP HALO 11 (B,C) P Brooks 7-10-7
5 005U LADY KATE 11 (M) Chappell 5-10-7
6 034 LADY KOP 2 G Oldroyd 6-10-7
7 64 Deep Halo, 11-Man From Mars, 9-2 Entertainment Park, 5-1 Bright Bounce, 14-1 Lady Kate, 10-1 Lady Kit.

1.40 KING LEAR SELLING HURDLE (£1,351: 2m) (7)

1 4005 FRIENDSHIP 10 (P,F) P Hobbs 8-11-12, B Clifford (9)
2 207P THE FARMERSKITCHEN 848 (J) S Smith 10-11-6
3 005 THE MAN FROM OMAN 53 (S) S Rechsteiner 9-1-11
4 005P COURETTE 10 (B) J Thomas 5-1-11

5 2351 KNIGHT VISION 10 (D,G) K Oliver 4-10-4
6 2025 LADY KATE 10 (D,G) D Bridgewater 3-11-10
7 50 SKIDDALE 11 (H) Hens 4-10-7
8 52 Knob Vixen, 11-C Fresh-Mint, 3-1 Pay To Dream, 10-1 Skidaddle, 20-1 others.

2.10 HAMLET HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,375: 2m) (4)

1 320 ELLITE-ESS 34 (CD) R Weston 7-12-0, D Bradley (7)
2 541P ITALIAN TOUR 11 (CD) M G Haworth 7-12-0
3 1106 KING OF SHADOWS 32 (CD) R Hakeemoff 5-11-5
4 005P NEARICT BAY 55 (S) T Bellamy 6-10-11
5 3504 SONG OF GYNAECIA 15 (B) H Easterby 5-10-4
6 040 DAUNTING PROSPECT 11 (CD,S) M Chapman 6-10-11
7 005P RED PLANET 42 (B,F,D) P Turner 7-10-11, T Elfrey (7)
8 52 Knob Vixen, 12-1 Desiring Prospect, 33-1 Red Planet.

RESULTS FROM SATURDAY

Sandown Park

Going: good to firm
1.00 1st 11.1 Mulin (J Frost), 20-1, 2. Al Muham (J Frost), 20-1, 3. Campese Ash (J Frost), 14-1, 4. Shooting Lodge (B-J), 12-1, 5. Cheveley Dancer (B-J), 8-1, 6. Mr. C. Ekey (B-J), 12-1, 7. Mr. D. O'Brien (B-J), 12-1, 8. Mr. D. O'Brien (B-J), 12-1, 9. Mr. D. O'Brien (B-J), 12-1, 10. Mr. D. O'Brien (B-J), 12-1, 11. Mr. D. O'Brien (B-J), 12-1, 12. Mr. D. O'Brien (B-J), 12-1, 13. Mr. D. O'Brien (B-J), 12-1, 14. Mr. D. O'Brien (B-J), 12-1, 15. Mr. D. O'Brien (B-J), 12-1, 16. Mr. D. O'Brien (B-J), 12-1, 17. Mr. D. O'Brien (B-J), 12-1, 18. Mr. D. O'Brien (B-J), 12-1, 19. Mr. D. O'Brien (B-J), 12-1, 20. Mr. D. O'Brien (B-J), 12-1, 21. Mr. D. O'Brien (B-J), 12-1, 22. Mr. D. O'Brien (B-J), 12-1, 23. Mr. D. O'Brien (B-J), 12-1, 24. Mr. D. O'Brien (B-J), 12-1, 25. Mr. D. O'Brien (B-J), 12-1, 26. Mr. D. O'Brien (B-J), 12-1, 27. Mr. D. O'Brien (B-J), 12-1, 28. Mr. D. O'Brien (B-J), 12-1, 29. Mr. D. O'Brien (B-J), 12-1, 30. Mr. D. O'Brien (B-J), 12-1, 31. Mr. D. O'Brien (B-J), 12-1, 32. Mr. D. 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Upton Park sees differing FA Cup fortunes for smaller clubs

Lee opens the way for Charlton to show superiority

Charlton Athletic.....
Barnet.....

By Keith Pike

Rangers take on **Aberdeen**

Barnet, attempting to reach the fourth round for the first time, went into the game boasting the League's most prolific attack — 46 fourth division goals and 24 in six cup-ties — against a team which had failed to win any of its five home games since October 19. Precious little was seen of Barnet as an attacking force for half an hour, however, as Charlton established a grip in midfield.

Nelson wasted a good opening with a poor cross, Robert Lee forced Paine into a splendid save low to his left, and only a desperate challenge by Howells ended Leaburn's threatening run as Charlton surged forward. But just as the neutrals in Charlton's biggest crowd of the season were wondering if Barnet could survive until half-time, the visitors took an unexpected lead.

Lowe's half-vit shot was going nowhere until it rebounded off Bull's heels to Mark Carter, scorer of five goals in Barnet's two previous FA Cup ties, and he finished splendidly, curling a shot out of Bolder's reach.

Pearce's men fly the flag on high

WREXHAM might have stolen the headlines, but it would be a brave man who would tell anyone from Farnborough Town that their fear in drawing 1-1 with West Ham United at Upton Park was not the performance of the FA Cup third round (Keith Pike writes).

While Crawley Town and Kettering Town were finding the step up in class too steep, and Woking were failing to do what many expected and beat Hereford United, Farnborough flew the non-League flag with distinction.

So it was no surprise that when Ted Pearce, the Farnborough manager, pushed open the doors of his local pub, the Prince of Wales, on Saturday evening, he received a tumultuous reception. "There were a few more in there than usual," Pearce said.

There were rather more mixed feelings among the celebrations enjoyed by Dean Coney, who scored the GM Vauxhall Conference side's goal from the penalty spot in the 83rd minute to cancel out the lead given to West Ham by Julian Dicks. A lifelong West Ham supporter, Coney joined family and friends in the east end 'heartland' of Dagenham.

Coney had been uncertain what would happen when the penalty was awarded as Mick Doherty, the regular penalty taker, had been substituted. "I just stood around," Coney said. "I didn't know whether they had a second penalty-taker or whatever. No one volunteered, and I found myself pushed forward. I just stepped up and smashed it."

The only surprise at the Goldstone Ground, where Brighton beat Crawley, of the Beamer Homes League, 5-0, was the size of the crowd, 18,031. Record receipts of £109,428 from Brighton's biggest attendance for four years gave both clubs a healthy financial boost.

Hereford needed Devine intervention to secure a goalless draw at Woking, the defender of that name clearing a header off the line in the 89th minute, but Blackburn Rovers made short work of Kettering, winning 4-1.

Reece, who was the supplier on the first occasion, also laid on the crosses for the second and third goals, as the Saunders show got on the road with a header and a close-range finish. He was given time and space to turn on a pass from Stewart for the fourth, before rounding off a slick movement involving Stewart again and Pounder after 70 minutes.

BRISTOL ROVERS 5-0 Plymouth Argyle 0-0

By Clive White

BRISTOL Rovers did more than emphatically win an FA Cup tie yesterday and with it the month-watching prospect of a fourth-round home tie against Liverpool, notwithstanding any Wrexham-style exploits on the part of Crewe Alexandra. They must also have managed to ignore that Dennis Roe does not remain in the capacity of caretaker-manager beyond next Wednesday's board meeting.

His appointment as manager in succession to Martin Dobson would appear merely to need rubber-stamping after this maundering of their West County neighbours at Tiverton Park. Roe deserves some reward, if only for having the gall to introduce three youngsters and drop Devon White, last season's leading scorer, for a match which took on greater significance after yesterday's Cup draw.

The absence of White did not seem to have any ill-effect on Carl Saunders, his fellow forward. If anything, it

had the opposite effect as the former Stoke City player, hit four goals for the first time in his career. The two youngsters alongside him in attack, Browning and Stewart, acquitted themselves creditably too.

Plymouth, by comparison, were abysmal, far cry from the third division side which, under John Hore, reached the semi-finals eight years ago. They failed lamentably in defence and attack, but at least managed to summon the self-respect to attack Rovers at 5-0 down.

David Kenny, their manager



Saunders on target

Wilkinson atones for his blunder

Middlesbrough.....
Manchester City.....

By Louise Taylor

EVEN the referee put his hands to his head in astonishment when Paul Wilkinson scooped the ball over the bar from three yards in the 58th minute at Ayresome Park on Saturday.

The Middlesbrough forward began to be dominated by the unlikely figure of Jamie Pollock. He may be only 17 but

showed sufficient strength to impress even McMahon.

Pollock — who saw his side bow out of the Rumbelows Cup at Ayresome Park last month — appreciated the wisdom of a double substitution by Lennie Lawrence, the Middlesbrough manager, midway through the second half. On came Andy Payton and John Hendrie and suddenly it was City's turn to fall short in the pace department.

Kernaghan redeemed himself by equalising and, before

there was time to contemplate a replay, Middlesbrough were ahead.

Within 60 seconds Pollock's chip picked out Payton, who nudged the ball into Wilkinson's path and, this time, he made no mistake.

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Wilkinson atones for his blunder

of amazement reinforced the feeling that it was not going to be the Teessiders' day.

Middlesbrough did not help themselves by attempting an uncharacteristic series of long, high balls. Trailing to a goal by Peter Reid, City's player-manager, a change in this policy proved significant in the undoing of the visitors.

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THE TIMES SPORT

MONDAY JANUARY 6 1992

Poise at the back allows visitors to finish with upper hand in a pulsating cup-tie

Tottenham weather early storm

Aston Villa 0
Tottenham Hotspur 0

By DAVID MILLER

THOSE neutrals now grey-haired enough to have been present the last time Aston Villa were at home to Tottenham Hotspur in the FA Cup were ready to be disappointed yesterday. That we were not was a tribute to the skill and application of both sides in this vibrant, but inconclusive, third-round tie. Old men too often tediously claim that their times were the best: yesterday's team are with justification the heroes of today's youthful followers of the game.

Thirty-one years ago, in the fifth round, Tottenham's illustrious double-winning team walked away with the match. Then there was an attendance of 69,672; now, it was only 29,316, but the Villa roar was no less passionate as their Afro-Saxon side — six to five when Ehiogu came on as substitute for the injured full back, Staunton, with 12 minutes to go — hurled themselves unavailingly at Tottenham's resolute defence. A less experienced team than Tottenham could have been overrun in the first half-hour of an unceasing assault.

In 1961, Villa's spearhead of MacEwan, Hitchens and the redoubtable McParland were no match for the likes of Blanchflower, Mackay, Jones and White. Spurs wittingly with a goal by Jones and an own-goal. Yesterday, the beauty of movement came from Villa: Daley's tortuous running, the poise of the young Trinidadian, Yorke, the subtle twists and turns of the veteran Regis. Yet, by the end of an exhilarating afternoon, Tottenham had shown themselves superior at football's chess.

Baker, Norman and Henry in defence, together with Les Allen and Dyson, were the workhorses of that brilliant double team. The cornerstones of Tottenham's achievement yesterday were Mabbutt and Fenwick, centre back and right back respectively, with Sedgley little inferior and Stewart playing adroitly in front of the back four, in spite of suffering overnight a debilitating stomach bug.

Of Lineker on this occasion there was less to be seen than usual, and it was Stewart, pushing forward stealthily, and the mercurial Walsh who



Standing firm: Allen brings the ball away for Tottenham as Blake sprawls in an attempted tackle at Villa Park yesterday

almost snatched victory in the last ten minutes.

Intelligently directed at the beginning by Richardson and Blake, Villa set a storming pace. Daley's wandering from flank to flank threatened to unhinge Tottenham's marking, but too infrequently did he capitalise on the momentum created, lacking awareness of his colleagues' support and positions.

If Daley hopes to play his way into England's European championship side, he must start to look around him more. It was the balanced running of Yorke that promised the greater danger for Villa.

However, with Mabbutt exceptional in the air for a defender of limited stature, and on the ground in his timing and positioning, Tottenham held firm. Fenwick's interceptions also made a telling contribution, together with Thorstvedt's sure handling.

Beating the offside trap early in the second half, Regis crossed low from the left, but Thorstvedt shovelled the ball to safety for a corner. Less convincingly, and more physically, Villa were attempting

post by Yorke. Three minutes later, a move between Regis and Yorke saw the ball drop in Richardson's path, but his low drive was well held.

A moment later, Daley skated round Van den Hauwe, for once crossed the ball early and only Fenwick's quick reading of the situation frustrated Yorke on the far side of the goalmouth.

When Richardson put Kubicki through on an overlap, the full back wastefully crossed the ball straight into Thorstvedt's hands. From a free kick not so long before half-time, an inswinger taken from the right by the left-footed Staunton, Regis was barely a foot wide with his lunging header on the far post. The best of Villa had come and gone, and Tottenham were now finding a blend coming forward.

Beating the offside trap early in the second half, Regis crossed low from the left, but Thorstvedt shovelled the ball to safety for a corner. Less convincingly, and more physically, Villa were attempting

to maintain the pressure, but not even the noise at their backs could make them more coherent.

With an hour gone, and names starting to go into the book, Howells gave Villa a warning as he broke through on the left but sliced his shot from a half-opening. The tackles were losing discretion; notably those by Teale and Fenwick on Walsh and Yorke respectively.

Now Tottenham began to frighten their opponents. Stewart cut through on the left and his cross swung away and flew across an open goalmouth, just too far for Lineker to reach.

Walsh was heavily brought down by Yorke for what looked an obvious penalty; on reflection, though, a draw was fair. Tottenham will welcome the additional finance of a replay and the televising of the match as a substitute for the postponement at Elland Road.

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Match facts		
At Villa Park	Att: 29,107	Ref: J Borrett
HT: 0-0	ASTON VILLA 0	TOTTENHAM 0
Scorers:	—	—
Cautions:	Blake 52, Teale 60	Fenwick 66, Allen 78
Subs:	Ehiogu 78 (Staunton)	—

ASTON VILLA (4-4-2)			TOTTENHAM (4-4-2)		
Goal	Corner	Fouls	Goal	Corner	Fouls
Player attempt	L	R	Player attempt	L	R
D Kubicki	1	5	E Thorstvedt	4	5
L Slatyer	1	2	T Fenwick	4	5
S Teale	1	2	G Howells	4	5
P McGrath	1	2	D Howells	1	1
K Richardson	2	2	D Sedgley	1	1
M Blake	1	1	H Debuchy	1	1
C Regis	1	1	P Walsh	2	4
G Yorke	1	1	V Semeyns	1	5
U Ehiogu	1	1	G Smekler	1	1
Unused: Oney	1	1	Unused: Nayim, G Bergson	1	1

In a match that yielded few chances, the home side had the numeric edge with four on target and seven other attempts (Yorke's shooting was particularly wild). Lineker managed one cross-shot on target. McGrath and Teale marshalled him with ease. Van den Hauwe and Blake had their own private battles, resulting in four fouls and a booking for the Villa man. Compiled by Julian Desborough

Target, McGrath and Teale

target, McGrath and Teale